Jose Camacho named finance secretary

STORY ON PAGE A3

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

THURSDAY, MAY 17, 2001 ★★ 42 PAGES 4 SECTIONS VOL.16 NO. 158 ₱15

Private armies stage a bloody comeback

By Carlito Pablo

PRIVATE armies have staged a bloody comeback in this year's local and congressional elections, figuring in 80 percent of the 152 violent incidents monitored by the Armed Forces since campaigning began on Jan. 2.

"They're more active now than in previous

PRIVATE/ A4

PPC, Puwersa swap cheating raps

By Christine Avendaño and Dona Z. Pazzibugan

THE PEOPLE Power Coalition and the Puwersa ng Masa continue to trade accusations of cheating, with the PPC claiming this time that the opposition was resorting to "bawas-bawas" (vote-shaving) to enable more PnM senatorial

PPC/ A4

COMMISSION ON ELECTIONS
NATIONAL BOARD OF CANVASSE
for SENATORIAL and PARTY-LIST
ELECTIONS
MA 1

A HOUSE divided among bickering commissioners, the Commission on Elections sits as one body on Wednesday to convene the National Board of Canvassers for the senatorial and party-list elections at the PICC. ERIK ARAZAS

Namfrel: Impeach them

Civil society trains guns on Tancangco

By Blanche S. Rivera, Cynthia D. Balana and Gerald G. Lacuarta

COMMISSIONER Luzviminda Tancangco of the Commission on Elections is getting it from all sides.

The National Movement for Free Elections and members of civil society are planning to lodge graft charges and institute impeachment proceedings against her and possibly other Comelec officials for failing to implement the poll body's modernization project.

Namfrel chair Jose Concepcion yesterday told the INQUIRER that his group would move to oust from the Comelec "the woman who is the reason we are . . . in all this trouble" as soon as the poll watchdog completes its quick count, which is expected early next week.

Tancangco said she would welcome any investigation on her conduct as a Comelec official.

"I have all the documents that they don't have," she said.

South Cotabato Bishop Dinualdo Gutierrez. Namfrel co-chair and member of the executive committee of the Bishops-Businessmen's Conference, said both groups would actively pursue the modernization

NAMFREL/ A5

TANCANGCO, up close and impersonal: The main obstacle to an automated electoral process? EDWIN BACASMAS

It is now 7-6 for PPC in Namfrel tally

By Cynthia D. Balana and Gerald G. Lacuarta

IT IS now 7-6, but still in favor of the administration candidates from the People Power Coalition.

Juan Ponce Enrile of the opposition Puwersa ng Masa last night entered the Magic 13, dislodging Ralph Recto who fell two notches to 15th place.

Enrile's lead came mostly from votes canvassed in Regions 2, 4 and 11.

An 11:30 p.m. tally of the senatorial race released by the National Movement for Free Elections showed independent candidate Noli de Castro's lead keeps growing.

De Castro was still enjoying a comfortable

IT / A4

NAMFREL

as of 11:30 p.m., May 16

No. of precincts: 40,850

1	DE CASTRO	Ind.	3,315,058
2	FLAVIER	PPC	2,478,014
3	OSMEÑA	PPC	2,340,389
4	ANGARA	PnM	2,325,293
5	ARROYO	PPC	2,267,765
6	DRILON	PPC	2,262,071
7	LACSON	PnM	2,261,427
8	MAGSAYSAY	PPC	2,249,323
9	HONASAN	PnM	2,211,068
10	EJERCITO-ESTRADA	PnM	2,200,201
11	PANGILINAN	PPC	2,195,340
12	VILLAR	PPC	2,168,556
13	ENRILE	PnM	2,065,480
14	DEFENSOR-SANTIAGO	PnM	2,045,440
15	RECTO	PPC	2,011,186
16	PUNO	PnM	1,936,982
17	TAÑADA	PPC	1,702,806
18	MERCADO	PnM	1,681,010
19	MONSOD	PPC	1,422,170
20	PAGDANGANAN	PPC	1,384,806
21	HERRERA	PPC	1,377,065
22	RASUL	PnM	1,189,945
23	MADRIGAL	PnM	1,149,881
24	YASAY	Ind.	1,039,047
25	VINZONS-CHATO	PPC	1,005,388
26	CANOY	PnM	796,861
27	TAMANO	PnM	792,664
28	ADAZA	Ind.	179,025
29	MORATO	Ind.	154,108
30	NAVARRO	Ind.	141,896

Romualdezes trailing; Osmeñas ahead

By the PDI Bureaus

THE ROMUALDEZES are losing their political grip in Leyte, but the Osmeñas continue to be the dominant force in Cebu.

In Pangasinan, former President Fidel Ramos appeared to have lost his political clout in his home province. Even his favorite nephew, Rep. Ranjit Shahani, was losing in his reelection bid in the sixth district.

Shahani's case is among the shaping political upsets in Northern Luzon, mostly involving reelectionist congressmen.

In Cagayan, reelectionist Rep. Rodolfo Aguinaldo was trailing former Rep. Manuel Mamba in the third district. In Ilocos Norte, former Rep. Roque Ablan Jr. was leading reelectionist Rep. Rodolfo Fariñas in the first district.

While Tacloban City Mayor Alfredo "Bejo" Romualdez, brother of former first lady Imelda Marcos, appeared victorious in his reelection bid, his son Alfred is trailing broadcaster Ted Failon in the congressional race in Leyte's first district.

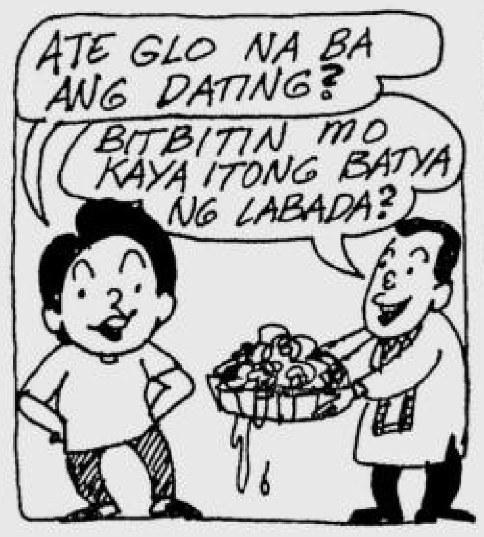
Another son, Carlos, is also losing by a wide margin in the second congressional district to Vice Gov. Trinidad Apostol, according to radio reports based on partial results of the municipal canvassing.

As of noon yesterday, National Movement for Free Elections (Namfrel) tabulations covering 16 percent of the total precincts showed Failon (Independent) with 18,658 votes and Romualdez (NPC), 16,790.

A third candidate, Board Member Enrico Antoni, got only 2,363 votes.

Ironically, Failon, a news anchor of the

ROMUALDEZES/ A15


ATE GLO NA BA ANG DATING?
BITBITIN MO KAYA ITONG BATYA NG LABADA?

Move over Erap, here comes 'Ate Glo'

AIDES have started calling her "Ate Glo" (Sister Glo) and have enlisted movie stars to help promote her pro-poor programs. She dons jeans instead of her usual dresses when she visits slums.

Aides hope the makeover will help bridge the gap between President Macapagal-Arroyo, a daughter of privilege, and the poor Filipinos who idolize the predecessor she helped overthrow in January.

MOVE/ A4

Stars twinkle, dim in politics

By Leah Salterio and Delfin Mallari
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

THE BRIGHTEST stars in the entertainment firmament may be losing their glimmer in the electoral contest.

"Superstar" Nora Aunor is fading out in her first political race for Camarines Sur governor. Namfrel tabulations as of noon yesterday showed the incumbent, Gov. Luis Villafuerte, pushing out Aunor from the scene.

A relative unknown has a commanding lead over incumbent Cavite Gov. Bong Revilla. His wife, actress Lani Mercado, who's running for mayor of Bacoor is trailing behind her opponent.

Being mayor of Quezon City may remain a movie in the mind of Rudy Fernandez. Speaker Feliciano "Sonny" Belmonte is enjoying, as of press time, a commanding lead over the actor.

As of yesterday's Namfrel count, tabulating 28 percent of the Quezon City precincts, Belmonte scored 171,333 votes over Fernandez's 115,175.

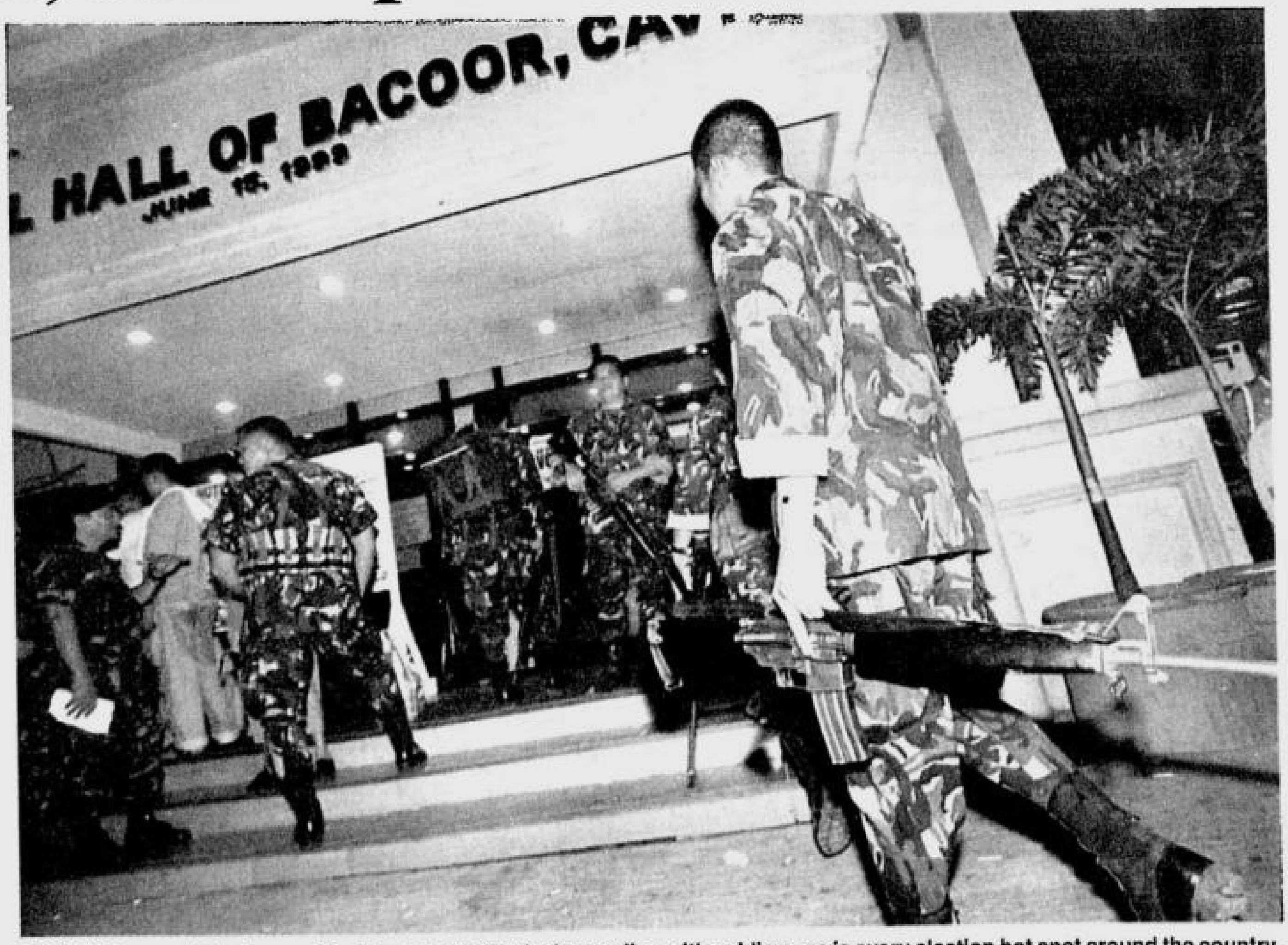
Jejomar Binay appears poised to stop Edu Manzano in his bid to become the mayor of Makati.

Armida Siguion-Reyna won't be singing a victory song at the end of the congressional race for the 1st district of Makati.

In Mandaluyong, action star Phillip Salvador and Kris Aquino's ex was, at press time, 3,000 votes behind his rival for the vice mayoral race.

Tirso Cruz III, also a first-time candidate, was lagging behind his rival in the Las Piñas

STARS/ A5



FAMILIAR scene: The Bacoor Municipal Hall in Cavite is crawling with soldiers, as is every election hot spot around the country. VAL HANDUMON

NAKU, MATATAGALAN PA!

Sandigan resets Erap arraignment

By Volt Contreras

WARNED that it risked violent mass actions by rabid supporters of deposed President Joseph Estrada, the Sandiganbayan has agreed to reset the dates of the jailed leader's court appearances on perjury charges.

The 4th Division deferred to May 31 Estrada's scheduled arraignment today on charges that he did not declare his true assets and liabilities in 1999.

The court, citing security reasons for the postponement, gave credence to state prosecutors' contention that the political situation in the wake of Monday's elections was still "volatile."

The 5th Division, where Estrada is accused of illegally using aliases to hide millions of pesos in at least 15 different banks, also moved his May 18 arraignment to June 15.

The 5th Division cited not security problems but still unresolved motions for the postponement.

Civil war scare

The 4th Division justices initially questioned the prosecution for raising the specter of "civil war" as a ground for deferment.

At one point, Associate Justice Narciso Palattao said the court was being asked to decide based on a mere "allegation of security assessment" and not on a valid legal issue.

"This is a bad precedent," Palattao said.

State prosecutors presented in a hearing yesterday a May 15 Philippine National Police memorandum that said the "timing" of the arraignment was a cause of concern.

"It is possible that the arraignment would be exploited by the Puwersa ng Masa candidates and their supporters to instigate further protests to center on issues of alleged cheating/irregularities in this year's elections," the memo said.

PNP memo

The memo, titled "Implications of the May 17 arraignment of former President Joseph Ejercito Estrada," was signed by PNP intelligence chief, Director Hercules Cataluna, and addressed to PNP Chief Leandro Mendoza.

Cataluna said that it was likely that pro-Estrada groups would stage protest actions, noting that the government has so far been unable to arrest and imprison the accused ringleaders of the May 1 riots.

He said pro-Estrada groups like the People's Movement Against Poverty, responsible for mobilizing mass support for the jailed ex-president, "remain intact."

Cataluna also pointed out that most PNP personnel were still preoccupied with the post-election security situation. With the counting of votes still going on, the PNP has to brace itself for more election-related violence, he said.

No objection

State prosecutors Robert Kallos and Humphrey Monteroso attached the PNP memo to their motion to reset the May 17 arraignment.

The court agreed to a deferment after defense lawyers led by Rene Saguisag, Jose Flaminiano and Cleofe Versola did not object to the prosecution's motion.

Saguisag himself filed on Tuesday a similar motion on grounds that his client had been due process when the Ombudsman filed the perjury case.

Two Equitable PCIBank executives meanwhile have been asked to appear in court from May 21 to 25 for bail hearings for Edward Serapio, one of Estrada's co-accused on the most serious accusation of economic plunder.

State prosecutors yesterday asked the Sandiganbayan's 3rd Division to subpoena Equitable vice president Annie Ngo and branch manager Emma Gonzales. Both had testified at Estrada's aborted impeachment trial where prosecutors sought to establish a paper trail of Estrada's alleged deposits of illegal gambling money.

EXPLAINING NOLI

Being in media helps, but not for all

By Christine Avendaño

BROADCAST journalist Noli de Castro's apparent overwhelming victory in the just-concluded Senate race has raised questions about how being in media could help a candidate.

This after De Castro appeared headed for certain victory while other media personalities such as Winnie Monsod, Ricardo Puno and Ronald Estella appear to be losing their respective races.

Reelectionist senator-elect Franklin Drilon said he believes being in media does help but it would depend on the type of exposure one has, by way of explaining why De Castro appeared to have made it while the others were having a tough time.

De Castro continues to lead the senatorial poll count three days after the elections.

Drilon acknowledged the strong showing of De Castro in pre-election surveys, saying his 15 years in broadcast journalism worked well for him.

"It was 15 years on television every day, Monday to Saturday, and every morning on the radio, Monday to Friday, on two hours of prime time," Drilon said.

Asked whether this kind of media exposure could beat party machinery, he said, "No, media exposure might help but it will never beat party machinery. Anyway, how many Noli de Castros can there be?"

Drilon said De Castro edged out Puno and Monsod in the Senate race because he was more exposed to the masses.

Puno and Monsod, he said, had television programs that catered to the elite and the middle class—Puno on "Dong Puno Live" over Channel 2 and Monsod in "Debate" on Channel 7.

Asked then whether those eyeing public office should take the route De Castro took, he jokingly suggested that one only needed to join a "sectoral" party like the ABS-CBN network.

Drilon cited several ABS-CBN anchors and personalities who made it in the political field—Senators Loren Legarda and Rene Cayetano, and now De Castro.

In the case of Ted Failon, another ABS-CBN anchor popular with the masses but who is facing a tough battle in the Leyte congressional race, his taking on a member of the entrenched Romualdez clan may be the reason for his difficulties.

DE CASTRO

At the latest count, Failon was slightly leading Rep. Alfredo Romualdez but the count has been see-sawing and it is far from over.

Estella, an ABS-CBN TV news reporter, appears headed to defeat in the congressional tiff in San Juan, bailiwick of the Estradas. But this could be attributed to his being the rival of Ronaldo Zamora, executive secretary during the Estrada administration and a former congressman.

In the case of lawyer Francis Pangilinan, who has hosted TV and radio programs for only a short time, his inclusion in the list of Senate winners as of the latest count could be more the result of his being the husband of entertainment celebrity Sharon Cuneta.

Drilon said Pangilinan, his fellow candidate in the People Power Coalition, still needed the party machinery behind him in this election.

Drilon also noted that voters were apparently "maturing" following the poor showing of several movie stars in the May 14 polls. Among these were Philip Salvador, Victor Wood, Connie Angeles, Rudy Fernandez and others.

"More and more the electorate are looking at the competence of candidates, regardless of one's profession," Drilon said.

He said voters have apparently learned from past experience against voting for candidates simply because they were movie stars.

Winning won't let them off the hook

By C. C. Yamsuan and D. Pazzibugan

OPPOSITION Senate candidates accused of inciting the supporters of jailed ex-president Joseph Estrada to attack Malacañang on May 1 will not be spared from criminal prosecution even if they win.

Justice Secretary Hernando Perez said that formal charges will be filed once state prosecutors are satisfied that the evidence against these candidates will stand in court.

"Winning the elections has nothing to do with criminal responsibility. (I)f we are not going to prosecute anyone simply because that person has won the elections, then we will be setting a very bad precedent," Perez said.

Reelectionist Senators Miriam Defensor-Santiago and Gregorio Honasan and Estrada's police chief, Panfilo Lacson, were ordered arrested for allegedly instigating the bloody siege of Malacañang on May 1, allegedly to overthrow President Macapagal-Arroyo. They were able to head off arrest by filing petitions before the Supreme Court.

Partial unofficial results show Honasan and Lacson in the winning 13 list of candidates.

Leading party-list groups Bayan Muna and Akbayan have urged the government to pursue the rebellion charges against the three opposition to prevent another "power grab" attempt by Estrada's allies

Even if they win, they are not automatically absolved, said Bayan Muna president Satur Ocampo.

Perez explained that because of the petitions that the three filed with the SC, the justice department could not file any case.

"(But) now that the case has been decided, we are free to file the corresponding criminal complaint," he said.

Perez added that rebellion raps could also be filed against businessman Mark Jimenez, a congressional candidate in Manila's sixth district. Jimenez allegedly raised close to P1 billion in funds for the pro-Estrada rallies.

Ocampo said Honasan should not again be allowed to use his being elected as senator as a means to escape prosecution. He recalled how Honasan evaded rebellion charges before by running for a Senate seat in 1995.

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Manero sent back to Muntinlupa

DAVAO CITY—Convicted priest killer Norberto Manero Jr. has been transferred back to the National Bilibid Prison in Muntinlupa City from the Davao Penal Farm Colony where he has been detained after his recapture last month.

The transfer from the Sto. Tomas, Davao del Norte penal colony was done secretly early yesterday, purportedly to avoid compromising the convict's security.

Jesus Dureza, the presidential adviser for Mindanao, said the family of Manero was not even informed until after the transfer was made.

Manero was taken in a prison vehicle to the Davao International Airport early yesterday morning and was placed on the 8:10 a.m. Philippine Airlines flight for Manila.

Supt. Alfredo Gozon, the Dapecol prisons superintendent, escorted Manero all the way to the Muntinlupa prison. Dureza said the justice department, on Gozon's recommendation, had decided to transfer Manero to the NBP as it was considered risky to keep him at Dapecol.

Dureza, who negotiated Manero's surrender after the convicted killer escaped from the Sarangani provincial jail on March 22, was informed of the decision on Saturday. Manero surrendered to Dureza on April 8 from his mountain hideout in Polomolok town.

Dureza said Manero would be more secure at the NBP to which he was originally committed after his conviction for the killing of Italian missionary Fr Tullio Favali on April 11, 1985.

Manero was transferred from Muntinlupa to the Davao penal farm on Feb. 21, 1989 but was ordered transferred back to Muntinlupa on April 7 that year by Prisons Director Meliton Goyena.

Goyena said Manero's transfer to Dapecol was "premature" and "erroneous." Manero was returned to Muntinlupa on April 21 that year. *Jowel Canuday, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

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BOUND FOR CONGRESS

Goma almost blew it

By Dona Pazzibugan

MOVIE actor Richard Gomez almost blew his chance to become a congressman because of his vigorous defense of ousted President Joseph Estrada at the height of the "juetengate" corruption scandal.

Leaders of the Mamamayan Ayaw sa Droga (MAD), the frontrunner in the party-list race, disclosed yesterday that the actor's closeness to the disgraced ex-president was a cause for worry and almost lost Gomez the MAD nomination.

As the first nominee of MAD, Gomez will sit in the House as party-list representative should MAD succeed in obtaining the required minimum number of votes.

It now leads the party-list race, which was held simultaneously with the elections for the regular Congress on May 14.

MAD board member and treasurer Rod Cornejo disclosed yesterday that the group was initially hesitant to choose Gomez because they were worried about Gomez's close ties with Estrada.

Estrada appointed the actor as presidential adviser for sports and youth development with the rank of a Cabinet secretary.

GOMEZ

During the impeachment trial and the Edsa People Power II uprising, Gomez came out publicly to defend Estrada.

"At first we were worried that he might bring down the party," Cornejo said. "But he's sincere so we took him in."

In a separate interview, MAD secretary general Alfonso Policarpio said Gomez was a "good image model" for the anti-drug campaign because he has projected an image of "clean living" despite being from show business where drug abuse is rampant.

"When we ask other movie stars to help, they always ask for payment. Not Richard. He's willing to work for the foundation without pay," Policarpio said.

As MAD spokesperson, Gomez appeared in a TV commercial against drug abuse and went on campus tours earlier this year.

But some believe the TV commercial was part of MAD's bid for party-list representation.

MAD's second nominee is retired PNP Chief Supt. Jewel Canson, former head of the PNP National Drug Law Enforcement and Prevention Coordinating Center. Policarpio is the third.

MAD's early lead in the party-list race cannot be attributed solely to Gomez's popularity, said Policarpio, citing the "accomplishments of the foundation."

Cornejo cited MAD's "popular name recall."

Various party-list groups Bayan Muna, Akbayan, and ATUCP regard MAD as a "bogus" party-list aspirant and filed petitions for its disqualification.

Akbayan Rep. Etta Rosales said MAD is funded by a government agency, the Dangerous Drugs Board, whereas party-list groups are supposed to represent the marginalized sectors.

The justice department also wanted MAD to withdraw from the race because of its ties with the government.

But Cornejo claimed that MAD, which was founded on Aug. 28, 1999, is now a private foundation and counts as its members representatives from the media networks, ABS-CBN and GMA, the Iglesia ni Cristo, and the Polytechnic University of the Philippines.

During a forum at Ciudad Fernandina yesterday, Cornejo said MAD should not be blamed for the inadequacies of the Party List Law.

But he said amending the law would not by a priority for MAD when it gets to Congress.

What they would like to do is to amend the "outdated" Dangerous Drugs Law of 1972 and propose a law that will punish drug traffickers according to their crime and not according to the amount of drugs that are found on them. *With Shirley Hope Sebastian*

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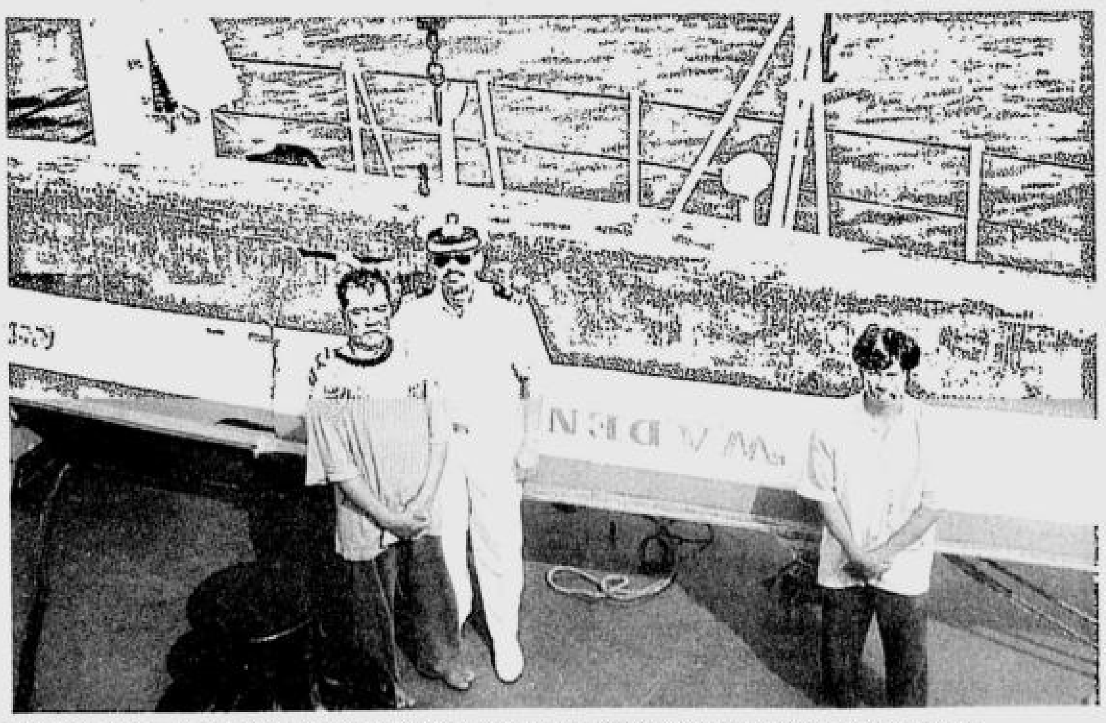

INDIAN skipper Balasubramanian with the two rescued fishermen and their stricken boat.

Indian ship rescues 2 Filipino fishermen

A VISITING Indian coast guard ship rescued on Monday two Filipino fishermen who had been drifting off Mindoro for five days.

The fishermen's boat capsized off the coast of Cabra Island, Occidental Mindoro, and the Indian vessel Sangram chanced upon the two distressed fishermen clinging to the overturned boat.

The Indian ship was on a three-day visit to Manila from Monday. It sailed off yesterday.

Sangram's crew took in the two Filipinos aboard and gave them medical attention. Upon reaching the Manila port, the two fishermen were turned over to the Philippine Coast Guard.

The Indian ship's crew also recovered the battered boat with cranes because the fishermen were "keen to recover" the engine," the Indian Embassy said in a statement.

The Philippine Coast Guard presented a plaque of appreciation to Sangram's crew for the rescue of the two fishermen.

The Indian Embassy said the two fishermen, who were not identified, had been perched on their overturned boat which had been drifting at sea for five days.

After the rescue, the doctor on board the Indian ship gave the fishermen immediate medical attention.

The Sangram is a 103-meter vessel built with multi-mission capability and well equipped for carrying out coast guard tasks at sea, such as search and rescue, anti-piracy missions, marine pollution prevention, anti-smuggling and anti-poaching missions. On board is a light helicopter and a crew of 102 sailors and 37 officers headed by its skipper, Deputy Inspector General K. Balasubramanian.

During its stop in Manila, the Indian coast guard team made a call on the headquarters of the Philippine Coast Guard and the Philippine Navy. *Leila Salaverria*

Macapagal calls special session

By J. L. Javellana

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo has asked Congress to hold special sessions beginning May 29 to act on the power reform bill and the supplemental national budget.

The President said her administration is adamant the Power Sector Reform Bill is passed by the outgoing 11th Congress.

"Before the new Congress convenes in July, we will push for ratification of the power restructuring bill in the incumbent legislature," the President told participants to the Credit Lyonnaise S.A. Investors Forum in Hong Kong yesterday in a teleconference.

The restructuring of the power sector was among the concerns raised by forum participants during the weeklong conference that started in Manila on Monday, according to a Malacañang statement.

The statement said the President emphasized the need to privatize the National Power Corp. so it "would not take away funds from important government projects."

The statement said the President believes the way to avoid power rate hikes is to restructure the power sector.

It said that because of the freezing of the power purchase agreement at February 2001 levels, the government is set to suffer more losses that could affect the projected budget deficit.

Presidential spokesperson Rigoberto Tiglao said Ms Macapagal hopes the Senate and the House would convene for four or five days to pass the administration-certified measures.

"The request is for the session to start on May 29 but, obviously, all the congressional leaders are busy now," Tiglao said.

Last February, a special Congress session was held to approve the privatization of Napocor and to restructure the power industry.

Palace says less than 13-0 is no problem

By Martin P. Marfil

MALACAÑANG yesterday sought to assure foreign investors that the entry of opposition candidates in the Senate would not pose a problem for the administration.

This came as Presidential spokesperson Rigoberto Tiglao told newsmen that the administration was still hopeful that their candidates would still be able to sweep the senatorial race for a 13-0 win.

"What I'd like to emphasize is that in reports from abroad, there seems to be a perception that less than 13-0 would make the Senate uncooperative (to the administration),"he said.

"That is not true. (With) an 8-5, even a 7-6 or 7-5-1, we'd still have a majority of the Senate. But of course, at this time, we're still hoping that a 13-0 would still come about," he added.

Surveys and initial quick-count results, Tiglao said, showed that the 10 to 13th slot were still being hotly contested and this calls for more vigilance.

President Macapagal-Arroyo told foreign investors that the government was very much in control despite the May 1 riots.

She added, in the same press statement, that proof that the country had returned to normalcy was the holding of a generally peaceful, fair and free election "which even the opposition cannot complain about."

Ms Macapagal also told them that opposition leaders have assured her that they were willing to "set aside politics for the urgent imperative of economic recovery."

She said this in a message delivered to participants in the Credit Lyonnaise S.A. forum in Hong Kong.

The message was delivered via satellite from her office in Malacañang and portions of the statement were contained in a press statement released yesterday.

Energy chief goes to finance

By Juliet L. Javellana

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo has named Energy Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho as the new secretary of finance effective June 15.

Camacho, an investment banker, takes over the finance portfolio from Alberto Romulo who was named executive secretary vice Renato de Villa who resigned for health reasons.

De Villa recently underwent a heart bypass surgery and his doctors have ordered him to rest.

"The President wants Camacho to move to the finance department on June 15 so he could still work for the passage of the Power Reform Bill in the special Congress session planned for the end of this month," Presidential spokesperson Rigoberto Tiglao said.

Tiglao said Romulo would assume the post of executive secretary about the time of the Cabinet meeting on May 22.

Finance Undersecretary Juanita Amatong has been designated officer in charge at Finance, Tiglao said, "but there will be definite plans by today or tomorrow."

He said an OIC will also be named at the Department of Energy, possibly someone from the ranks.

Being bruited about to take over at Energy are Undersecretary Cyril del Callar and Rufino Bomasang, president of the exploration arm of the Philippine National Oil Co.

The appointment of Camacho means that Trade Secretary Mar Roxas, who was offered the DOF post by the President last week, will stay where he is.

"Secretary Roxas expressed his wish to stay at the trade department since he has plans on how to make the DTI a very effective department, so the President let him stay," Tiglao said.

Tiglao said Camacho's 20-year experience as an investment banker and country representative of Deutsche Bank AG made him suitable for the finance post.

"He knows the financial markets here and abroad," Tiglao said.

Tiglao raised the possibility that De Villa would be given a less stressful government job when he has fully recovered.

"Right now there's nothing yet. We are allowing him to rest," Tiglao said.

He said the President visited De Villa at his home last Monday. *With Clarissa S. Batiño and Ronnel W. Domingo*

Carandang, 83

ROSARIO Lao Carandang died on Sunday, May 13. She was 83. She is survived by her children Fe and Nando Concepcion, Baudilla "Del" and Boy Barranda, Susan and Bernie Bunyi, and Gabriel; grandchildren Mara, Penny, Edgar, Abby, Paco, Riarose, Mikko, Sherwin and Phoebe, and Mode, her helper of 25 years.

The body now lies at the Carandang residence in Ozamiz City. Interment will be on Saturday at the Roman Catholic Cemetery in Ozamiz.

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TO-053-2001

It is now 7-6 for PPC in Namfrel tally

(From page A1)

lead over second placer Juan Flavier of the People Power Coalition *(see Namfrel chart)*.

The tally represented 20.32 percent or 40,850 precincts out of the total 201,007 precincts nationwide.

The PPC candidates who made it to the Magic 13 were Juan Flavier (2nd); Sergio Osmeña (3rd); Joker Arroyo (5th), Franklin Drilon (6th), Ramon Magsaysay (8th), Francis Pangilinan (11th) and Manuel Villar (12th).

Opposition candidate Edgardo Angara jumped to 4th place from 9th place Tuesday night.

Other opposition candidates who got in were Panfilo Lacson who rose to 7th place, Gregorio Honasan, 9th; Loi Ejercito-Estrada, 10th and Enrile, 13th.

Enrile's votes came mostly from votes canvassed in Regions 2,4 and 11.

Like Angara, Lacson made a big leap to 7th place from his 11th place standing the previous night.

Ejercito-Estrada, who ranked 12th in the first count, also rose to 10th spot.

De Castro was still first in 10 of 16 regions. These are the National Capital Region, the Cordillera Autonomous Region, and Regions 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 8, 9, 10, 11 and 12.

Flavier was first place in Caraga region while Osmeña took Region 7.

Miriam Defensor-Santiago remained in the 14th slot, followed by Recto, Ricardo Puno and Wigberto Tañada.

Delayed

Namfrel's release of tally to the media last night was delayed by nearly nine hours since the last issuance of its tally at 3 p.m.

It was the second time the release was delayed by more than six hours since the quick count started the other day.

During a hastily called press conference at 11 p.m., Namfrel executive director Guillermo Luz explained that while their computer processors were fast, their servers—IBM and Compaq—have insufficient memory to handle the surge of data coming from the different Namfrel field offices.

Amid the bitter electoral fight, President Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday extended the hand of reconciliation to the opposition, saying that the country needs unity at this time.

She said that the elections were neither a fight between pro-Estrada and pro-Macapagal forces nor was it about the legitimacy of her administration.

"We must forget our differences brought about by the heat of the election campaign. The past elections were not between Erap and Gloria," she said.

"More than this, it was not referendum about the legitimacy of my presidency. This issue has been settled. The Supreme Court has ruled on this three times," she added.

Flavier was still first place in the Cordillera Autonomous Region; Drilon in Region 6 and Osmeña in Region 7.

Ombra Tamano of PnM topped the senatorial race in Marawi City, the country's only Islamic City.

In Cotabato City, it was the turn of Santanina Rasul, also of PnM, to be on top.

Party-list race

In the party-list race, the Mamamayan Ayaw sa Droga (MAD) of movie actor Richard Gomez was still No. 1 with 87,666 votes.

Leftist organization Bayan Muna of Satur Ocampo remained second with 59,035 votes, followed by PROMDI, 24,360 votes; PDP-Laban, 21,318 votes; VFP, 20,911 votes; Buhay, 17,821 votes; Akbayan, 17,578 votes; Apec, 16,961 votes; Cibac, 14,981 votes; and NPC, 12,520 votes.

A party-list group that gets 2 percent of the total party-list votes is entitled to one seat in the House of Representatives. A group can get three seats at the most. A total of 163 party-list groups have joined the race.

Comelec canvassing delayed

The official canvassing by the Commission on Elections (Comelec) for the senatorial elections and party-list race at the Philippine International Convention Center was reset for 10 a.m. today.

The delay was attributed to the nonarrival of results from the cities and provinces. But it appeared that a split in the Comelec en banc regarding canvassing procedures also caused the postponement.

The poll body nevertheless convened yesterday the National Board of Canvassers constituted by the Comelec en banc, or Chair Benipayo and the six commissioners sitting as one body.

The National Board of Canvassers shall proclaim the winning candidates for senator and the nominees of winning party-list groups.

"There's nothing to canvass so we have to adjourn or recess," said Comelec chair Luzviminda Tancangco. "But this does not mean a delay because the National Board of Canvassers was supposed to be convened two days after the elections."

Benipayo had earlier projected the official national canvass to be finished in two weeks.

As of 8 a.m. yesterday, the partial, unofficial results in Marawi City showed Tamano topping the race with 754 votes. He was followed by Rasul with 703 votes.

No. 3 was another Muslim, Moner Bajunaid, former technical committee member of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) and professor at the Mindanao State University in General Santos City.

Even independent candidate Camilo Sabio found a place in the Magic 13. He was No. 13.

Of the PnM senatorial candidates, only Rasul and Tamano were able to join the Magic 13.

Also included in the Magic 13 were Pangilinan, Pagdanganan, De Castro, Drilon, Arroyo, Tañada, Flavier, Magsaysay and Villar.

All-out war cost PnM

Some observers said the opposition's dismal showing in Marawi could be due to last year's all-out-war policy that then President Joseph Estrada declared against the MILF.

The war forced hundreds of thousands of residents in the two Lanao provinces to flee. When the war was over, the evacuees found themselves without homes.

In Sultan Kudarat, Maguindanao, it's 13-0.

With a 95 percent turnout, most of the town's 27,000 voters went for the PPC senatorial candidates, said reelectionist Mayor Tocao Mastura.

But unlike in Marawi City and Sultan Kudarat, other PnM candidates fared well in Cotabato City.

Puwersa's Angara, Mercado, Honasan, Lacson, Santiago, Estrada, Puno and Enrile were also in Magic 13. Estrada and Puno tied on the 10th place, while PPC's Flavier and Osmeña landed 12th and 13th, respectively.

In Cagayan de Oro City, the Namfrel quick count, based on 338 precincts, showed that most of the Puwersa's candidates made it to the winning circle.

De Castro was first, followed by Estrada.

Only Flavier and Osmeña of the PPC joined the Puwersa-dominated list.

Estrada led the Puwersa slate with 175,045 votes. She was followed by Enrile, who jumped from the 5th spot, based on figures released Tuesday morning, to the 3rd spot by midnight with 159,625 votes.

Trailing them were Honasan (159,406 votes), Lacson (158,998), Angara (151,044), Puno (145,472) and Santiago (142,191).

Only Osmeña of the PPC managed to get in the Magic 13 at No. 9 with 132,225 votes. Mercado took the 10th spot with 120,443 votes.

PPC bets, however, took the last three spots. Flavier had 119,323 votes; Drilon, 115,291 and Villar, 112,758.

In Davao City, figures released by the Namfrel quick count center showed the Puwersa leading 8-4 based on the partial unofficial count covering 1,717 precincts out of the 3,007 precincts in the city.

Comelec en banc

The en banc met at 10 a.m. yesterday amid speculations that some commissioners would boycott the proceedings because they were allegedly not consulted on the issuance of Resolution No. 4343, which promulgated the general instructions for the national canvassing at the PICC.

Records showed that the resolution was signed by Benipayo and Commissioners Rex Borra, Florentino Tuason and Ralph Lantion.

Merely written in place of the signatures above the printed names of Commissioners Mehol Sadain, Rufino Javier and Tancangco were the words "(No part)," which was allegedly scribbled by Benipayo.

"We wonder who is the person who had the courage to write in the said resolution such kind of misrepresentation," Tancangco said in a memorandum for reconsideration filed on Tuesday.

Attached with Tancangco's memorandum was a memorandum from Lantion explaining his vote for the approval for Resolution 4343.

Lantion said he voted with Benipayo with the understanding that three points shall be included in the resolution.

- For maximum transparency, the chair and each of the commissioners must be represented in all the membership of the working groups, namely Reception and Safekeeping, Secretariat, Tabulation, Encoding, Audit, Control and Releasing, Security, Legal Panel, and Mass Media;
- A verification committee and authentication committee are to be organized as a working group; and
- As agreed with former commissioner Regalado Maambong, a pre-canvassing procedure is to be done before the use of the provincial and city certificate of canvass with the supporting statement of votes per city and municipality.

The Comelec, in only certain cases, can go beyond the provincial and city certificates of canvass as the National Board of Canvassers.

It appeared that these points were part of a draft of the same resolution earlier signed by Tancangco, Javier, Sadain and Lantion.

These procedures were missing in the approved resolution which Tancangco, Javier and Sadain did not sign. ***With reports from Martin P. Marfil, Violeta M. Gloria, Charlie C. Señase, Grace Cantal-Albasin, Jowel F. Canuday and Nash B. Maulana, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

NAMFREL

Party List Votes
as of May 16, 2001 10:53 A.M.
Total No. of precincts: 201, 007
Precincts reported: 4,921

Rank	Party List	Votes cast
1	MAD	47, 487
2	BAYAN	37, 326
3	PROMDI	17, 988
4	VFP	11, 080
5	BUHAY	9, 866
6	APEC	9, 016
7.	AKBAYAN	8, 934
8	CIBAC	8, 644
9	COOP-NATCO	6, 634
10	LAKAS-NUCD-UMDP	5, 774
11	LDP	5, 483
12	PM	5, 335
13	ABA	5, 254
14	CREBA	5, 145
15	ABANSE PINAY	5, 084
16	MARCOS LOYALISTS	4, 870
17	SANLAKAS	4, 864
18	PDP-LABAN	4, 702
19	ATIP	4, 038
20	AMIN	3, 910

Move over Erap . . .

(From page A1)

Political analyst Nelson Navarro said Ms Macapagal "was trying to steal the constituency of Estrada and it's the right thing to do."

In a country long ridden with poverty, support from the impoverished masses is indispensable for politicians to remain in power, Navarro said.

In her visits to poor communities, aides have begun addressing Ms Macapagal "Ate Glo." She also wore jeans—and had begun listening.

"This is not for show," the President said. "I listened to their gripes and to their problems."

Ms Macapagal's sudden makeover was inevitable amid unsettling signs.

In March, Ms Macapagal was heckled during a visit to Smokey Mountain in Tondo where supporters of deposed President Joseph Estrada live. One woman blocked the door of her apartment and refused to let Ms Macapagal in. It took Ms Macapagal several minutes to convince the woman to let her inside. She went back to the area last week and was greeted with less antagonism.

On May 1, about 50,000 impoverished rock-throwing Estrada followers laid siege on the presidential palace, demanding their idol's return to power. Such unrest is an extra worry to an administration already besieged by insurgencies, a limping economy, an often-restive military and an exasperatingly rowdy politics.

After crushing that deadly assault, Ms Macapagal started reaching out to the poor, hoping to bridge a class divide with high-profile visits and instant projects.

Aides call it a show of her humanity. Rivals claim it's just public relations.

"The former president has no franchise on the pro-masses tag and so we're embarking on this campaign," presidential spokesman Rigoberto Tiglao said.

Opposition leader Edgardo Angara said Ms Macapagal's visits to Manila's shantytowns was campaigning in disguise ahead of last Monday's elections, which was regarded as a referendum on public support for either of the two leaders. Final election results are not expected until next week.

Aides contend that the President wants to better project her anti-poverty programs.

Ms Macapagal announced two weeks ago that she would donate a large tract of provincial land she inherited from her late mother, along with more than 1,000 hectares of central sugar land from her husband's family, to a government land reform program.

One of the key criticisms against former President Corazon Aquino was her refusal to break up some of her family's land in Tarlac for distribution to farmers despite making agrarian reform a top priority of her administration.

"The privileged Filipinos must realize that true justice, development, democracy and reconciliation in our land will not happen without the willingness of the elite to share or give up some of the wealth and power," said Ms Macapagal.

Ms Macapagal was thrust to power in January when huge street protests she co-led toppled Estrada over alleged corruption. Estrada claimed that political rivals conspired with wealthy businessmen and plotted, in violation of his strong election mandate, to topple his administration and throw him in jail for his pro-poor stance. He portrayed it as a battle of the rich against the poor.

When Estrada was arrested for economic plunder and detained on April 25, his poor followers massed for six days, then marched across the capital to unsuccessfully try to storm Malacañang. The ensuing clashes killed six people.

Ms Macapagal cracked down on opposition leaders whom she accused of agitating, then abandoning the rioters. The massive assault was the first known attack on the seat of power by an unorganized, impoverished mass of Filipinos in recent memory.

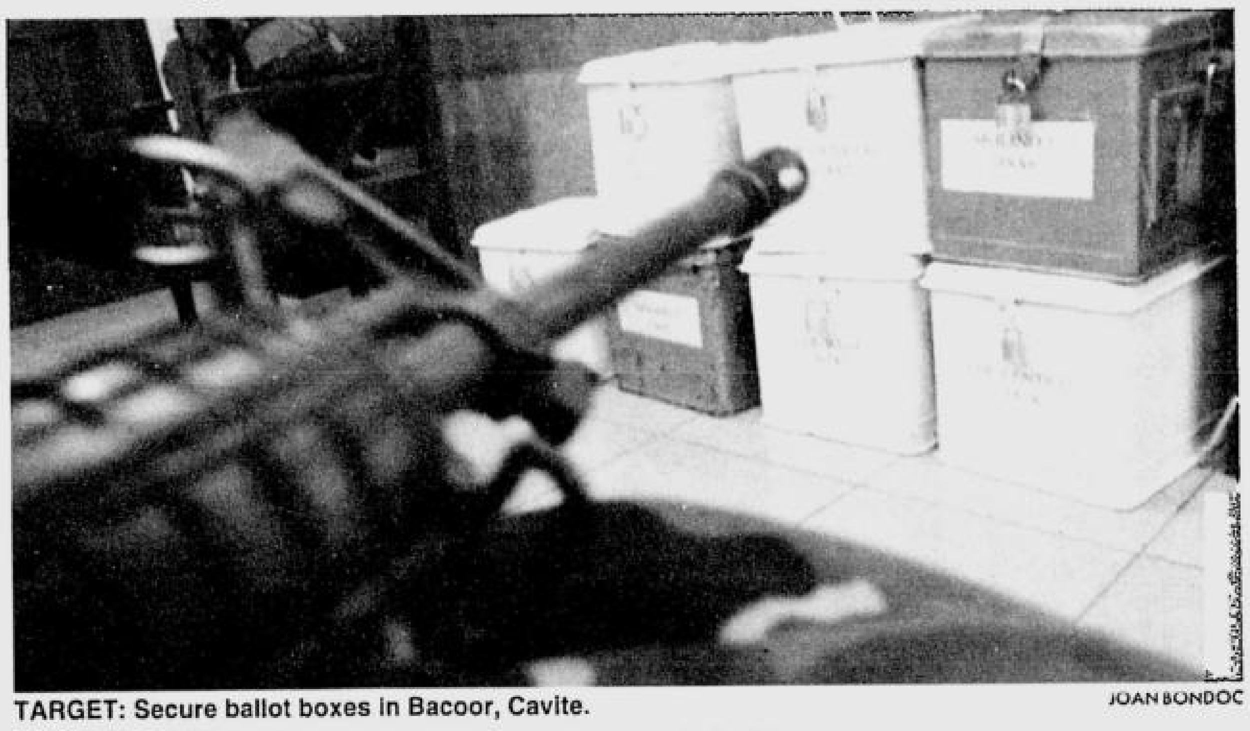
Navarro senses danger, saying that amid the political battle, the poor may have realized their collective power, with Estrada as the trigger.

"I think it's a case of everybody playing fire with the problem of poverty," Navarro said. "This time, they may have gone too far in unleashing a terrible force that nobody can control."

AP

Private armies stage a bloody comeback

(From page A1)



TARGET: Secure ballot boxes in Bacoor, Cavite.

JOAN BONDOC

elections," said Lt. Gen. Jose Calimlim, AFP vice chief of staff and head of AFP Task Force Hope 2001.

Calimlim said the task force, which was deployed to ensure honest, orderly and peaceful elections, had monitored about 100 private armies nationwide.

Calimlim did not identify the politicians who continue to maintain private armed groups, but he said that only with the dismantling of these armed groups could the country have free elections.

He said private armies were also responsible for 69 percent of the political killings this year.

At least 77 people have been killed in what is turning out to be the bloodiest elections since 1992.

The latest fatality was Elias Taher, a municipal treasurer who was shot and killed while canvassing election returns in Lanao del Sur. *(See story in Across the Nation, Page A12.)*

At least 30 people have been reportedly missing and unaccounted for, according to Task Force Hope.

As of May 14, a total of 1,311 persons have also been arrested for illegal possession of firearms despite the gun ban imposed by the Commission on Elections.

"These figures indicate intense political rivalry at the local level," Calimlim said.

He said there were more killings in the Autonomous Region for Muslim Mindanao, a bailiwick of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front, than in other regions.

According to Task Force Hope 2001, however, the MILF figured in only three cases of election violence.

The communist New People's Army figured in 27 cases, but it was responsible for the more sensational political murders, particularly the killing of Tanauan City Mayor Cesar Platon on May 7 and that of Quezon Rep. Marcial Punzalan Jr. on May 12.

Tirso Alcantara, spokesperson of the NPA Melito Glor Command in Southern Tagalog, said his group was responsible for both killings, saying Platon and Punzalan were punished for their "crimes against the people."

Three days after the killing of Platon, however, Alcantara's younger brother was gunned down while he was on his way home to Magdalena town in Laguna.

Virgilio Alcantara, 45, was shot and killed by two unidentified gunmen who, according to human rights groups, were military "assets."

Concern

President Macapagal-Arroyo has voiced concern over the rise in violence and has ordered the Philippine National Police to restore peace and order.

"The President has been spending her time the past two days monitoring the poll violence," her spokesperson Rigoberto Tiglao said.

"She reminded the PNP chief and the PNP hierarchy to immediately take control of the situation in certain areas where there were about the deployment of armed men and of poll violence," Tiglao said.

He acknowledged the election violence was rising despite earlier assessments by top PNP and military officers that the balloting was "generally peaceful."

Tiglao said Malacañang was also alarmed by reports of possible electoral fraud particularly in Mindanao.

According to one report, a helicopter had been sighted in Mindanao bringing in boxes that possibly contained money.

"The People Power Coalition reported that political leaders and operatives, identified with the former administration, had been going around Mindanao, which traditionally is the area where you have this vote-shaving or *dagdag-bawas*," he said.

"We are not making accusations but the PPC leaders are concerned that these well-known political leaders have actually been spotted in Davao and Iligan," Tiglao added. ***With reports from Armand C. Nocum and Romulo O. Ponte, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau***

PPC, Puwersa swap cheating raps

(From page A1)

candidates to land in the winning circle.

Not to be outdone, the PnM is accusing the PPC of stopping the counting of votes in several towns and cities in Mindanao to reverse the 13-0 lead of opposition senatorial candidates in these places.

PPC spokesperson Conrado Limcaoco said the bawas-bawas scheme was the reason PPC senatorial candidate Ralph Recto was at the tail-end of the quick count being conducted by the National Movement for Free Elections (Namfrel).

A look at Recto's vote count by Namfrel showed he was No. 10 the other night. Yesterday, he dropped to No. 15 but at press time yesterday he surged to No. 13.

Limcaoco said the vote-shaving scheme was also being applied to PPC candidates Wigberto Tañada, Francis Pangilinan and Obet Pagdanganan the past two days in Makati City, Ilocos Norte and Pangasinan.

"They have been employing the vote-shaving system against (these) PPC candidates so that opposition candidates (and tail-enders in the vote count) Juan Ponce Enrile and Ricardo Puno may get the edge in the Magic 13, along with partymates Loi Estrada, Miriam Santiago and Gregorio Honasan," the PPC spokesperson said.

Limcaoco dubbed the scheme "Operation TRO-TKO," which stands for the first or last names of the PPC candidates being victimized by the bawas-bawas scheme.

He said information reaching the PPC showed that municipal and city canvassers were implementing the scheme.

Limcaoco said that the actual 10,000 votes for Tañada, for instance, were being reduced by about 5,000 votes before the votes could be tallied in the official canvas of the local Commission on Elections.

"I am appealing to teachers not to allow this to happen," he said.

Counter-accusation

The PnM countered that the counting of votes was stopped in at least three cities and one municipality where opposition senatorial candidates were allegedly leading.

"In areas where the results are without doubt for Puwersa, either they stop the counting or we hear there are operators in the area," said Makati Rep. Agapito "Butz" Aquino, secretary general of the Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino (LDP).

"They are changing results in Lanao del Norte, Lanao del Sur, in Cotabato City, in Bulacan. God, as near as Bulacan," he said, citing reports they had received from local allies.

Aquino said opposition candidates were leading by 10-3 and as much as 13-0 against PPC candidates in these places before the counting was stopped.

"There are instructions from Malacañang to change the results to 13-0 (in favor of PPC in Cotabato City). But we don't know yet who actually called (the local officials)," Aquino said.

After stopping the counting, the canvassing in Marawi City was transferred to "either the PNP headquarters or the Army brigade (camp) or near the city hall," Aquino said.

He said their poll watchers were barred from going inside to watch the canvassing.

The other day, the LDP reported that counting was stopped in at least five barangays in Tubod, Lanao del Norte.

The ballot boxes were allegedly brought to the PNP provincial headquarters in Tubod.

Statistically impossible

Senior Supt. Jesus Almaden described as "statistically possible" the 0-13 victory of PnM senatorial candidates in South Cotabato, Sarangani and General Santos City or the Socsargen.

PPC supporters said the administration's senatorial candidates were shut out in Socsargen because of "massive ballot switching" by PnM supporters.

Reports reaching Camp Crame said that prepared ballots were found to have been switched with the genuine election returns.

"The police did nothing to stop the ballot switching," Almaden quoted PPC supporters as saying.

Almaden, who is based at Camp Crame, is tasked with monitoring the elections in Socsargen.

Director Edgardo Aglipay, Philippine National Police director for operations, has ordered an investigation after reports revealed that incumbent local officials, poll officials and members of the PNP had colluded in the ballot switching.

Aglipay confirmed reports that supporters of the PPC and PnM nearly clashed in General Santos City because PPC had complained of massive cheating.

Snatching of ballots

Not only ballot switching, but *dagdag-bawas* (vote padding and shaving) and snatching of ballots were resorted to by the opposition in other areas, according to the PPC.

Limcaoco noted that the power outages in elementary schools in San Juan, Mandaluyong, Parañaque, Pasig, Iloilo, Palawan and other isolated areas on election night led to cheating by the PnM.

He said electoral fraud was also reported in the Caraga Region, Bacolod and Laoag.

In a statement, Limcaoco accused San Juan candidate for mayor Juan Victor Ejercito of harassing PPC local candidates and watchers.

He noted that electric power was cut in several schools in San Juan, an Estrada bailiwick, during the counting of votes on the night of May 14.

During the blackout, PPC watchers were reportedly blocked from entering the schoolrooms where the votes were counted.

DOJ directive

Justice Secretary Hernando Perez has alerted all local prosecutors nationwide against *dagdag-bawas* schemes and ordered them to charge suspected participants in court.

"I would like to inform you that I have given a verbal directive to all prosecutors who are involved in the canvassing of the votes," Perez said in an ambush interview.

In particular, Perez ordered all municipal, city and provincial prosecutors to "look out for any attempt to have *dagdag-bawas*. And the moment that there is any attempt at *dagdag-bawas*, to stop it and to prosecute whoever is making such kind of an attempt."

Perez explained that under the law all local prosecutors were members of the board of canvassers in their areas—a role which allows them to detect first hand whether the practice was taking place in their jurisdiction.

Former Ambassador to the US Ernesto Maceda said it was the administration that was cheating.

Maceda assailed the administration and the Comelec for allegedly manipulating election returns.

He cited the situation in the provinces where the names of registered voters were not accounted for in the official Comelec list.

Maceda said the scheme was aimed at stopping a considerable number of individuals from casting their votes.

A couple of weeks back, Maceda was charged with rebellion for allegedly inciting the supporters of ousted President Joseph Estrada into storming Malacañang. He is out on bail. ***With reports from Christine Herrera, Armand N. Nocum, Cathy Yamsuan and Irene Andrea C. Perez***

Namfrel: Impeach them (Comelec execs)

(From page A1)

of the Philippine electoral system starting in July.

"We are giving Tancangco a chance. But if she is found to be an obstacle to the modernization of the election process, we will push for (her) impeachment," Gutierrez said in an impromptu press conference at the Manila headquarters of the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines.

He said other Comelec officials would face the same impeachment complaint if they were found liable.

Joey Rufino, national executive director of the Lakas-NUCD, called on the people not only to impeach all Comelec officials but also to have the May 14 polls declared a failure.

Rufino said he was now convincing his party mates to support his call because the Comelec had supposedly lost control over the elections.

"I am trying to make it a party stand," he said in a phone interview.

Christian Monsod, a former chair of the Comelec, said Joseph Estrada's appointees to the poll body should share the blame for the lack of preparations for the Monday polls.

In a phone interview with the INQUIRER, Monsod virtually cleared Comelec Chair Alfredo Benipayo for liability in the messy conduct of the polls, noting that the latter was appointed only in February.

Monsod said Benipayo's predecessor Harriet Demetriou and Commissioners Tancangco, Mehol Sadain, Ralph Lantion and Rufino Javier were all liable.

But Demetriou, who stepped down on Jan. 21 when her term lapsed, said she should not be blamed.

"It's unfair because Monsod was not even there with us when we were busy with the preparatory activities for the 2001 elections," she said.

Demetriou said she had been asking Congress as early as October 2000 to approve the budget for the May 14 polls, or there would be a failure of elections.

"The problem in the preparations is due to the delay in the release of the budget," she said.

Satur Ocampo, standard bearer of the party-list group Bayan Muna, raised this point in a breakfast forum at the Ciudad Fernandina in San Juan.

He said Congress was also partly to blame as its slow approval and allocation of the national budget could have hampered the Comelec's implementation, of its modernization program.

"I'd like to know if the people in Congress intended to delay the release of funds so that Comelec operations would remain weak and faulty," he said.

Ocampo also pointed out that the Comelec was formed as a constitutional body with its funding as a clear priority to ensure that "the integrity of the process it is handling will remain unquestionable."

RA 8436

Concepcion said Tancangco—who chairs the Comelec committee on modernization—did nothing to ensure the complete implementation of Republic Act 8436 (or the Electoral Act of 1998), which provides for the use of counting machines in the May 14 elections.

"Had this been accomplished, the teachers would not have had to undergo ... the harassment they got," he said.

Concepcion said the initial failure of the five-year Comelec modernization project was solid ground for the charges to be filed against Tancangco and other Comelec officials.

He said Namfrel would use the

CONCEPCION: That woman is the reason for all our troubles.

report submitted by Demetriou to the Senate and House of Representatives to boost its charge that Tancangco had miserably failed in her duties.

"We will start with Tancangco," he said, adding that Namfrel's legal experts were already reviewing pertinent documents.

"We must distinguish (between) graft ... for pecuniary reasons (and) graft in connection with one's failure to do duties assigned to her, which (in Tancangco's case) is to computerize, to automate the elections," Concepcion said.

He said RA 8436 was "very clear" that the Comelec should have been 100-percent computerized in time for the 2001 elections, but that Tancangco had failed to comply with this.

The committee chaired by Tancangco supervises precinct mapping, automated counting and consolidation of results, electronic transmission of electoral returns, and the Voters' Registration and Identification System (VRIS).

The projects were meant to clean up and update the 1998 Comelec voters' list, but these were shelved because the government had failed to release sufficient funds for the modernization program.

The VRIS would have cost P2 billion; automated counting, P1 billion; and precinct mapping, P500 million.

Demetriou said that because Congress approved the special election budget of P2.45 billion only on Feb. 21, after her term had expired, the Comelec under her supervision could not enter into contracts for the purchase of paper and printing of ballots and election returns.

However, she said, the Comelec during her term laid the groundwork for the elections through preparatory activities like the passage of resolutions, bidding for modernization projects and precinct mapping project.

"I cannot be held responsible for the non-payment of the teachers (and) for the non-delivery of ballots in Caloocan, and I cannot be blamed for the internal squabbling in the commission," she said.

Tancangco echoed Demetriou's explanation, saying the past Comelec administration had the proper committees and preparations.

"It's just that we cannot proceed because there's no money. It's (common) knowledge that the budget was released only how many days before the elections," she said, adding that finger-pointing would not improve the situation.

"What we should do is be more professional," she said. "Intrigues are useless at this time."

Tancangco also said she should not be blamed for the confusion and the missing names of voters. She said she was about to complete the precinct mapping project, "when suddenly they came in and they had it stopped."

"They should be the ones blamed because I did my share for two years," she said, apparently referring to Benipayo and Commissioners Rex Borra and Florentino Tuason, who were all appointed on Feb. 16.

Negligence

Concepcion said Tancangco would be accused of "gross inexcusable negligence."

He said the grounds for her impeachment would be:

- Refusal or failure to attend Comelec en banc meetings during Demetriou's term, and even Benipayo's, especially those concerning the registration of new voters.
- Failure to implement the computerized voters' list which should have been made available to voters not later than Feb. 13.

Bishop Gutierrez said the voter turnout could have been much higher had it not been for the "negligence of the Comelec."

He said there could also have been malice in the furnishing of the Namfrel of illegible election returns.

"Modernization is already a law. In fact, a wise guy could question the validity of the recently concluded elections. Everybody violated the law because the elections should have been automated by now," Gutierrez said, adding:

"It's time we acted."

But Monsod pointed out that while it was Tancangco who had proposed the precinct mapping project, it was the Comelec en banc that approved it, "so Harriet Demetriou is also accountable."

"You cannot blame Tancangco either. It was her project, but the en banc allowed her to pursue (it) and to spend that kind of money," he said.

In pursuing this project and not the automation of the elections, Monsod said, the commissioners concerned were liable for impeachment as they violated the election modernization law.

"It's a national scandal," he said, adding that Congress should conduct an investigation on the Comelec to save the poll body as an institution.

"We are talking here about institution building. You cannot let that go. Structurally, there's something wrong in the way we run elections, and those who are responsible for not carrying out the mandate of Congress should be held responsible. That's the only way we can have institution building," Monsod said.

Bayan Muna's Ocampo suggested that groups in the House and the Senate could have used their posts to manipulate the allocation and release of money for the Comelec projects.

But he acknowledged that the infighting in the Comelec, which the Namfrel described as "a divided house," had adversely affected operations.

Namfrel secretary general Guillermo Luz said it was "a miracle" that the new Comelec officials—Benipayo, Borra and Tuason—even got anything done.

"The other four commissioners who were appointed over the last several years are the guys who had plenty of opportunity to get their work done. They are among the worst commissioners we've ever seen in the Comelec in a long time," Luz said.

Better system

In Malacañang, President Macapagal-Arroyo noted the problems that accompanied the May 14 polls and urged the Comelec to start the cleanup of the voters' lists and the computerization of the electoral process.

In a post-election message written in Filipino, Ms Macapagal also congratulated those who helped in the conduct of the elections, including the teachers, soldiers and volunteers, and the Comelec.

"Despite the successful elections, there are still problems that need to be confronted to improve the process," she said.

The President said elections were important to a democratic society.

"It's time to change the electoral system. It's time for a better system," she said.

Namfrel lead counsel Jose Bernas said the group could tap other Comelec officials to help boost its case.

He said the Comelec would "have no choice but to turn over the necessary documents" if these were subpoenaed.

But ex-Ambassador Ernesto Maceda called on Benipayo to resign his post because of his supposed "inefficiency."

Maceda said in a radio interview that the recently concluded senatorial election was the worst since 1992.

"Benipayo should not wait for the Commission on Appointments to investigate his case. He should vacate his post immediately if he has any sense of *delicadeza*," Maceda said in Filipino. ***With reports from Armand N. Nocum, Norman Bordadora, Martin P. Marfil, Christine Avendaño, Gladys Tolete and Dona Z. Pazzibugan***

Disabled folk disgruntled, too

By TJ Burgonio

ON top of everything else, the Commission on Elections failed to deliver its promise to persons with disability (PWDs).

Manuel Batac, president of the group Pinagbuklod Bagong Pagasa Association Inc., said a number of PWDs were very upset that they had to climb to the second or third floors of school buildings, where their precincts were located, to cast their ballots on election day.

He said that at one instance, he had to request election officials at the Caloocan High School to bring their records down from a third-floor polling room to enable PWD Leo Dante Cuevas to vote.

"It seems they're not taking us seriously," Batac said.

Comelec Chair Alfredo Benipayo and the six commissioners issued a resolution on May 9 directing election officers to put up polling places for PWDs at the ground floors of school buildings.

It was a response to a request that Batac made in a letter to Benipayo dated April 12. The wheelchair-bound Batac said some PWDs had complained to him that they failed to vote in previous elections because their precincts were inaccessible.

According to Batac, a number of his colleagues were seriously considering taking legal action against the Comelec.

"They had three years to plan and prepare for (the elections). It seems they have no concern for the disabled," he said.

An estimated 500,000 to 1 million PWDs nationwide voted last Monday. Two groups representing the disabled sector ran in the party-list election.

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Food
P140 M
TEACHERS: Overworked & Underpaid/Paid Late or not Paid at all
Alliance of

TEACHERS' pet peeve, the Comelec, receive a lot of lecturings and scoldings on Wednesday from the Alliance of Concerned Teachers.

ERIK ARAZAS

Stars twinkle, dim in real world of politics

(From page A1)

vice mayoral contest.

"People no longer want show biz stars in politics," a veteran entertainment publicist told the INQUIRER yesterday. But what he said cannot be entirely true.

Incumbent Lipa Mayor Vilma Santos is winning big this early in the counting. The party-list Mamamayan Ayaw sa Droga (MAD), with Richard Gomez as its first nominee, is well on its way to Congress.

Parañaque Mayor Joey Marquez appears to be on his way to a third term; Herbert Bautista is leading in the Quezon City vice-mayoral race; so is Rey Malonzo for Caloocan mayor.

Aiko Melendez, candidate for councilor in Quezon City, ranked No. 2 as of yesterday's count.

Pro-,anti-Erap

Neither can a pattern of winnability be discerned between movie stars closely identified with deposed President Estrada and those who went to Edsa II to demand his resignation.

Actors closely associated with Estrada such as Rudy Fernandez, Phillip Salvador and Siguion-Reyna are getting severe beatings at the polls, something which they did not quite experience at the tills.

On the other hand, the same is happening to Aunor and Revilla, Estrada's allies who turned against him at Edsa.

Estrada's nephew appeared headed for a landslide win as mayor of Pagsanjan, Laguna.

Msgr. Rey Agramon, PPCRV Pagsanjan parish coordinator, said that as early as Tuesday, movie actor Emilio Ramon P. Ejercito or George Estregan Jr., already held a victory Mass and rally.

Surprising case of Bong Revilla

With the turnout of the partial election returns from Cavite's 21 municipalities and two cities, the premier province in Southern Tagalog looks like it's rejecting its incumbent governor, Revilla. Partial election returns show the pro-Estrada, Cavite Rep. Erineo "Ayong" Maliksi (Partido Magdalo), posting a landslide victory against incumbent Bong (Lakas-NUCD).

Maliksi said it only indicated that the people in Cavite were now fed up with the present kind of provincial leadership.

"Their message is clear. They gave their trust and belief in the platform of government that I presented to them during our campaign. Besides, I never resorted to black propaganda and mudslinging, unlike my political opponent," he added. Maliksi recalled that he was practically branded by Revilla as a criminal.

"They accused me of having a hand in the killing of Dacer, who I never personally met. They also accused me of being a drug lord in the province, that I'm anti-environment and so on and so forth," he said.

Four days after the hotly contested polls, several streamers still hung across the streets that refer to Maliksi's pro-Estrada position during the heat and passion of Edsa III.

The streamer reads: "*Ayong, hinakot mo kami sa Edsa, pero nang magkagulo ay pinabayaan at tinalikuran. Akala ba namin ay buo ang loob mo, bakit mo kami iniwan.*" It is signed: "Erap Loyalists of Cavite."

The words around town is that Revilla is set to stage his own "people power" to protest alleged election irregularities.

But Maliksi is quick to offer a hand of reconciliation.

"Let us join hands. The mandate of the people is very clear. Politics is over," he said.

Maliksi also made the same appeal of unity to all political parties in Cavite. ***With reports from Romulo O. Ponte and Juan Escandor, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau***

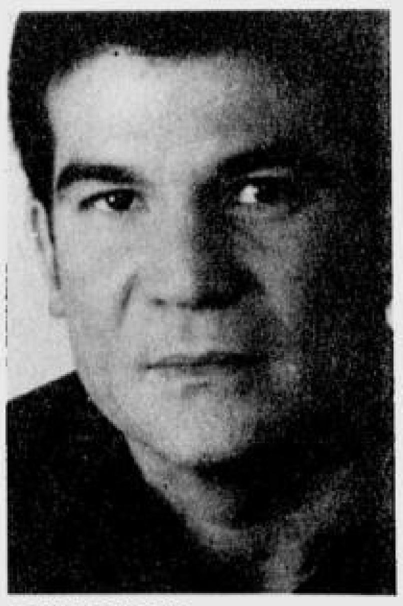
BONG REVILLA

RUDY FERNANDEZ

PHILLIP SALVADOR

ARMIDA SIGUION-REYNA

NORA AUNOR



EDU MANZANO

OPINION

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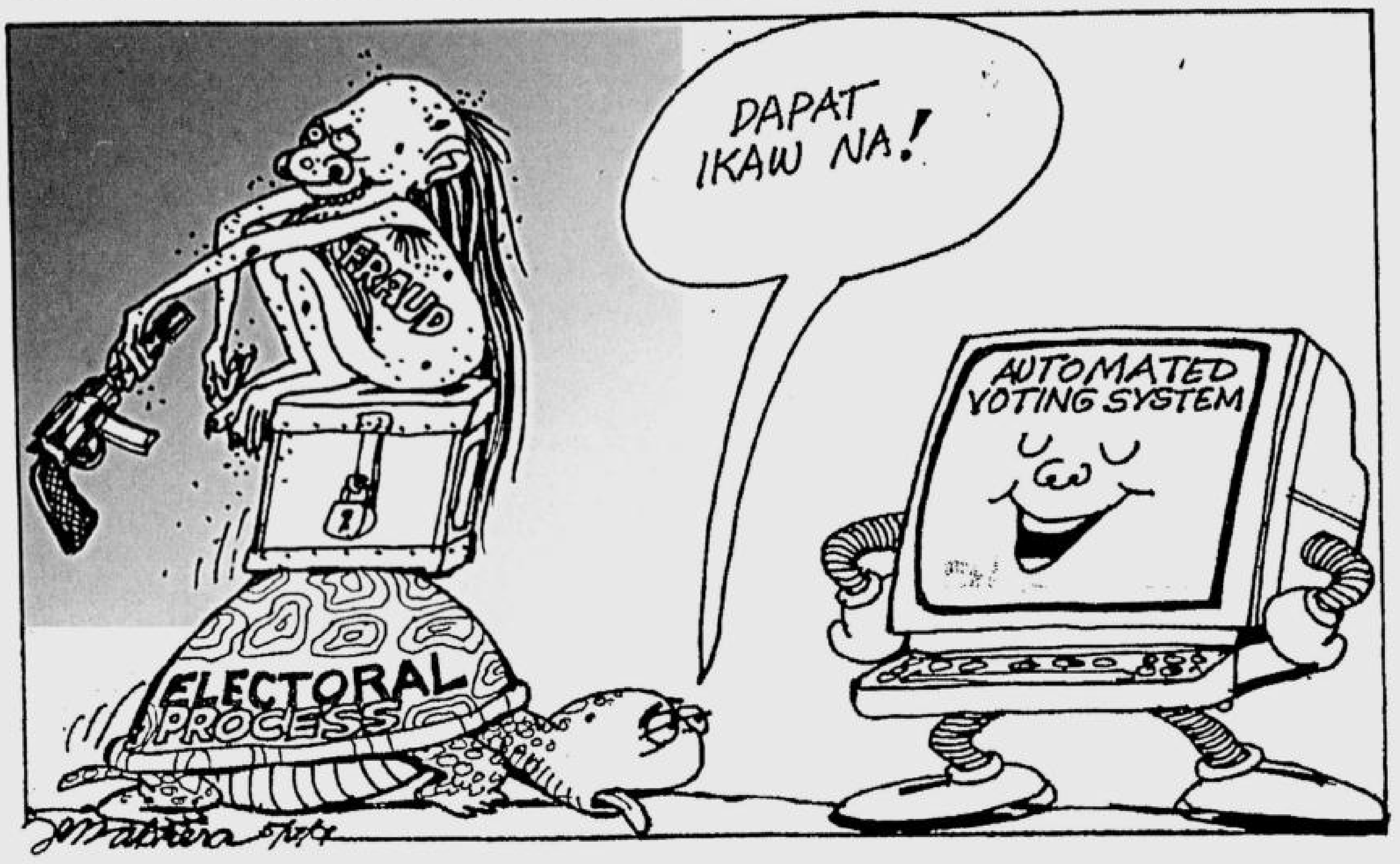

Dangerous conclusions

EDITORIAL

UNLESS the trend in the election results is reversed drastically, the worst-case scenario for the administration's People Power Coalition is 8-4-1 in the senatorial elections. This outcome is consistent with the results of pre-election public opinion surveys, the Social Weather Stations' exit polls and the initial National Movement for Free Elections' tabulation.

Claims of the opposition that its senatorial candidates are being cheated fly in the face of the consistency of the tabulation results, except for early tabulations aired by a major radio-television network which gave the Puwersa ng Masa the lead in the senatorial polls, raising questions about where the numbers were coming from.

It is dangerous to argue that if the PnM does not get the majority in the Senate tabulation, it can only be because it has been cheated. At the very least, the doubts cast by the opposition on the tabulation process set the stage for possible electoral protests and for even inciting unrest over results they might not accept.

Elections are supposed to defuse political tensions. And so, unless some irresponsible opposition spokespersons are stoking the flames of another confrontation, they better wait for the results of the tabulation by the Commission on Elections and Namfrel before they lock us into their dogmatic belief that they can never lose except through cheating. Democracy is about tolerance and accepting decisions of independent bodies like the Comelec, acting as arbiters of political disputes.

The other day, even Comelec Chair Alfredo Benipayo noticed the bias of early election returns being broadcast by some networks which did not bother to say where they got their results. He warned the networks against "trending."

What seem to be emerging from the early election returns are signs that the nation is deeply, and dangerously, polarized. An 8-4-1 result has raised anxieties about a possible stalemate in the Senate, since it would give the administration 11 seats and the opposition 10 seats, with the remaining three seats occupied by independents.

President Macapagal started with a handicap in the Senate. Her coalition has only three holdovers, and the possible addition of eight new members from the PPC will narrow the deficit. With seven holdovers, the opposition needs only five winners to create a stalemate. From this point of view, the administration can be said to come up on top by grabbing eight seats in the just concluded polls.

There's however no basis for fears that a thin Senate mandate foreshadows legislative deadlocks and paralysis. Historically, alignments in the Senate, and even in the House of Representatives, are fluid. A sitting president has powers and resources to broaden an administration's support for its legislative agenda. President Estrada's party didn't have the majority in Congress after the 1998 elections, but almost as soon as Congress opened, the administration was able to cobble together a majority coalition. The 24-percent plurality of President Ramos in 1992 did not prevent him either, from forging a working coalition in Congress to back his legislative agenda.

The presidency has tools and weapons it can employ to forge a consensus on key programs, particularly an attack on poverty. But for a consensus to prosper, it is important that the losers be gracious enough to concede defeat.

Shallow folly

FOREIGN COMMENT

PRESIDENT Bush displayed his shallowness recently. He made it official that he wants to spend hundreds of billions of taxpayer dollars—perhaps $1 trillion—building a "Star Wars" missile shield that isn't needed, probably won't work, and would wreck nuclear arms control treaties.

Bush seemed to imply that space gizmos are necessary to protect America from intercontinental missiles fired by Iraq, North Korea or the like. But that's silly. Such nations don't have ocean-spanning missiles—and if they eventually develop them, they couldn't fire them at America without suffering swift suicide from retaliatory strikes.

The real danger to America lies in smuggled nuclear bombs—sender unknown. A truck or boat could bring a concealed "nuke" into Washington or New York, like the fertilizer bomb that Muslim fanatics trucked into the World Trade Center. If that happens, $1 trillion worth of orbiting interceptors would be useless.

Charleston Gazette (Charleston, West Virginia)

Purge of party-list system needed

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

HERE'S another big boo-boo of the Commission on Elections. The party-list system was created by the framers of the 1987 Constitution to provide representation in Congress of the marginalized or under-represented sectors of society. The logic is that because of the prohibitive cost of running for a seat in the House of Representatives, only a few rich and powerful political families get elected and they represent only their limited interests. Although the marginalized groups comprise 95 percent of the Philippine society, they are hardly represented in the House. The party-list system is supposed to remedy that.

The Constitution reserved 20 percent of the total House seats, or 52 seats, for representatives to be elected through the party-list system. Here, a party needs to get only 2 percent of the total votes cast for party-list representatives to win one seat. If a party gets 4 percent, it gets two seats. But each party is limited to only three seats. This way, it is hoped that the House will be able to pass laws for the benefit of the marginalized sectors.

These 12 marginalized sectors were identified by the Constitution as: labor, the indigenous cultural minorities, farmers, fisherfolk, urban poor, the elderly, the handicapped, the youth, women, overseas workers, veterans and professionals. (I don't understand why the last was included since professionals in this country are hardly marginalized; in fact, many members of Congress are professionals.) Only parties from these 12 basic sectors are supposed to be included in the party-list system.

But what did the Comelec do? It allowed political parties to be included in the party-list system. Major political parties such as the Lakas-NUCD-UMDP, Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino (LDP), Nacionalista Party (NP), Liberal Party (LP), Nationalist People's Coalition (NPC), Partido ng Masang Pilipino (PMP), People's Reform Party (PRP), and Aksyon Demokratiko were included in the party-list system. These are the same parties which fielded candidates for various positions in the national and local elections. In fact, their leaders are already in power and running the government. They are hardly marginalized. They have candidates running both in the regular elections and in the party list. And their nominees in the party list are the same *trapos* who ran, and lost, in the past regular election. They have the best of both worlds.

While it is true that the Constitution does not expressly prohibit political parties from the party-list elections, the intent is clearly to reserve these slots to the marginalized sectors of society. In fact, political parties are not included among the 12 basic sectors listed in the Constitution for the party-list system.

But the Comelec, and the political parties, used the absence of an exclusion provision in the Constitution as an excuse to include them. Yet one doesn't have to be a genius to see the purpose and intent of the charter to give more representation to the under-represented sectors of society. And political parties are far from under-represented in Congress. In fact, they dominate that body and the whole government bureaucracy.

The framers of the Constitution might have overlooked the express exclusion (who would have thought the major political parties would take advantage of that oversight?) but their intention was clear as day. There is legal principle that the intent of the law takes precedence over the letter of the law. There is not even a letter, much less a word, that includes political parties. They are simply not among the 12 basic sectors identified by the Constitution. If they are not included, then they are excluded. There's no need to expressly say that they are excluded.

But the Comelec, as with almost everything it has done so far, erred and chose to rule in favor of the political parties. It could have done its duty in interpreting the Constitution correctly, but it chose to abdicate its duty instead.

Bayan Muna, the militant organization, has filed a petition with the Supreme Court to overturn the Comelec ruling. Solicitor General Simeon Marcelo, as the chief lawyer for the government, argued for the Comelec. I read his arguments in yesterday's INQUIRER. It was as if he was arguing with blinders on. If he were within hearing distance, I would have been tempted to ask, "Do you really believe your arguments?"

Simply put, Marcelo's arguments center on the absence of exclusion of political parties. He cites collateral provisions that seem to include them.

But isn't it obvious that regular political parties have an undue advantage in the party-list system since their members can be elected to the House in the regular elections? In fact, many of their members are already members of both houses of Congress.

Moreover, because the seats for party-list representatives are limited, the regular political parties will ease them out of many of these seats. Because the parties will have to divide among themselves the total number of votes cast for party-list representative, the bigger the number of parties, the smaller the chances for a party to get the required 2 percent.

Doesn't this put the marginalized sectors at another disadvantage? Doesn't this stultify the intent of the Constitution to give them more representation?

Demons, devils and a divided nation

WINDMILLS

Jerry Barican

WHEN the Commission on Elections described last Monday's election as "generally peaceful and orderly," hyperbole ruled the day. True, there was peace after a fashion for the 77 or so persons killed in election violence—eternal peace.

But despite three years of planning since the last polls, these elections were filled with reports about localized blackouts at polling stations, missing election paraphernalia, jumbled precincts and confused voters. It was an average election, except that this was perhaps more average than others. To say this chaos presided over by the Comelec was average was like having one foot in a pail of boiling water and the other in a pail of ice and saying on average you are comfortable.

Despite this, these elections—local aberrations aside—generally affirmed the voters' national views and confirmed the deep split in the nation. In an election where each side demonized the other, it was less significant that, for instance, eight administration candidates may be elected against five opposition ones than the fact that by their votes, 55 percent of the nation thinks the other side are demons while the other 45 percent believe that their adversaries are devils. This is a referendum splitting the country down the middle. If ever a nation needed healing, it is ours.

Unless reason overcomes passion, there is reason to worry. The media have so obviously become part of the story they have been reporting. Whether this arises from principle alone or also from a natural resentment to opposition anger in the past, this is a dangerous development. Malaysia and Singapore have constitutionally restricted debates on race because they have known first-hand their incendiary effects. If both sides amplify this kind of argument especially over the media, mixing class and politics this time, similar dangers await us.

Moreover, the preliminary results cover some ambiguity. If one counts out the administration-secured bloc votes, reportedly negotiated in exchange for better conditions of detention for former President Estrada, the split in the country may be both broader and deeper than even first appears. And the splits are not only along class lines but also along regional ones.

Even if only five opposition senators win, the effect can be problematic for the administration. Which five is also important. If Miriam Defensor-Santiago, Juan Ponce Enrile, Panfilo Lacson or Gringo Honasan, for instance, are among them, then the administration will live the next three years in interesting times. Numbers can be less important while in opposition than personality. Ninoy Aquino, the sole senatorial election survivor of the opposition slate in 1967, made the political life of an astute and then popular president, Ferdinand Marcos, hell.

Consequently, the administration may yet face a hornet's nest of angry opposition senators eager to pay it back with interest for what they believe to be its heavy-handedness in the past few months. Add to this the temptation for administration senators to position themselves for the 2004 presidential polls and a whole host of problems may manifest themselves: congressional investigations, Commission on Appointments embarrassments, budget arguments, legislation bottlenecks. Downright filibustering, the administration will cry; upright filibustering, the opposition will respond. The civil glue that binds the political process together is in serious danger of breaking down completely.

Nor are the problems faced by the country simple or easy to solve. Stalled economic growth. An unchecked population explosion. Large structural deficits which may require Congress to take a fresh look at galloping internal revenue allotments to local governments. Water—too much or too little. Garbage. The non-performing assets of the financial sector, which may be as large as P400 billion. Unemployment. The miseducational system. The politicized Church. A politically empowered military. A discredited judiciary. The deteriorating power infrastructure which, if ignored, will return us to Aquino-era 12-hour blackouts in three years—just coincidentally election time.

Aside from the problems with the political opposition, the administration will also squarely face the conundrum of continuing negotiations with the National Democratic Front while its auxiliaries are openly assassinating high-ranking government officials. The Moro Islamic Liberation Front problem may be similarly papered over but not so easily solved.

With a presidential election coming in 2004, the President has barely two years to heal the country and move her programs forward in the midst of problems the size and number of which would cause an Atlas to despair. She needs and deserves bipartisan support in the attainment of these goals.

With the mid-term elections over, she is no longer the president of the coalition that installed her in Edsa but the president of everyone. She can now reach out to the middle and create a broader national consensus without abandoning her right and responsibility to govern. When that happens, the opposition—despite its perceived hurts of the past—is obliged to respond in kind. What goes around comes around.

We need to break away from the personal feuds that have molded our politics these long decades past. Marcos versus Aquino. Gloria versus Erap. Edsa II versus Edsa III. We need to return, if it is still possible, to settling disputes in elections, not in the streets. We need to exchange arguments, not invectives.

Let us remember Don Claro Recto's words: "I bring you this message from one whose only authority is a firm conviction and a lifelong experience and who in his declining years still loves to plant trees knowing he will never sit in their shade, happy in the thought with Tacio the Philosopher that some day in a distant future, men will say of him…'there were those who kept vigil in the night of our forefathers (*no todos dormian en la noche de nuestros abuelos*).'"

Over a hundred long years after "Noli Me Tangere," Filosopong Tacio still needs to plant shade trees to shelter the next generation from the overheated political passions of his countrymen.

Win some, lose some

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

EARLIER I wrote that on a visit to my old precinct in Camp Murphy, Quezon City, I saw many public school classrooms still displaying photos of deposed President Estrada four months after he left Malacañang. Many people have since called or "texted" me to say they also saw many classrooms with the Estrada photo in other areas, such as Bulacan.

* * *

There's a lot of talk of cheating at the polls, but I've spoken to a few people with concrete experiences. Concerned Women of the Philippines member Alegria Francisco related to me how she was given a ballot already filled with names at her precinct (No. 705-A) in San Antonio Village, Pasig, when she showed up to vote. Francisco could only remember "Mercado" written on that filled-up ballot. When she complained, she was simply given a new blank ballot.

* * *

Even before the final tally is in, speculation is already building up on what kind of coalitions in the Senate would emerge with the entry of 13 new winners. It's difficult though to foretell how the alliances would shape up. For one thing, though the People Power Coalition may get eight seats, there's no telling what group the new senators will join. It's easy to speculate that many of them would remain independent, believing they owe their victory principally to themselves. That's true of Serge Osmeña and Ramon Magsaysay, who got elected largely because of their famous names, as well as for Joker Arroyo, whose performance during the impeachment trial won him his seat.

* * *

Columnist Emil Jurado of the Manila Standard opines that with the strong showing of Puwersa ng Masa's Edgardo Angara in the Senate race, it would be a fight between him and his former colleague at the Accra law office, Franklin Drilon, for the Senate presidency. I had earlier opined that Drilon would make a bid to recapture that post and I think Angara would give way to Drilon's ambition and support him. This is because the ultimate target of their group, the Accra-Sigma Rho group, is to capture the presidency in 2004, and Angara, being most pragmatic, is aware that the younger and more charismatic Drilon would have more working for him.

* * *

Former President Fidel V. Ramos, who called up the other day to affirm his participation in the GMA Para sa Kawal Cup to be held at the Riviera Golf and Country Club this Saturday, for the benefit of widows and orphans of soldiers killed in action or completely discharged due to disability, foresees realignments in the Senate based on programs. For instance, says FVR, Senate President Nene Pimentel has been with President Macapagal on plunder-related issues, voting with nine other senators to open the second envelope during the impeachment trial, as well as on poverty issues. FVR sees Nene continuing this. But Nene's leadership would be somewhat tarnished by the defeat of his bar topnotcher son, Koko, by Vicente Emano in the Cagayan de Oro mayoral race. There were those who advised Koko not to go against Emano and run for the House instead where he had a far better chance. But Koko will live to fight another day.

* * *

FVR also opines that independent senatorial topnotcher Noli de Castro will be with President Macapagal on poverty and human rights issues. FVR's opinion is corroborated by my own inside info that Noli has indicated a willingness to ally with the administration on many issues, but undoubtedly the opposition will be courting him too. FVR recalls that Lakas wanted to draft De Castro into its senatorial lineup but he preferred to run as an independent. That was, of course, very smart for De Castro now owes his position to no group. One thing is sure, though: with his phenomenal showing, this former broadcaster will be a force to reckon with in 2004, depending on his Senate performance.

* * *

Elections are always a case of win some, lose some. For this columnist, it is sad that four good friends who deserve to be in the Senate are trailing behind, namely, Bobby Tañada, Obet Pagdanganan, Winnie Monsod and Liway Chato. These four would definitely be bigger assets than the PnM candidates who are faring better in the polls, namely, Ping Lacson, Loi Ejercito and Gregorio Honasan. Many citizens share my concern that Lacson, for instance, would still win despite all the stink around him and his officers. This shows that many of our people are still unable to discern between the media visibility of a name and the rot that accompanies that name. This is one area where our educational system has to do a lot of work.

Honasan without his patron, Juan Ponce Enrile, will be crippled in the Senate. On the other hand, Loi can be easily swayed by her smarter colleagues. Loi surged forward because of sympathy for her husband after his arrest. In Puerto Princesa, for instance, Loi finished sixth in what was a 7-6 vote in favor of the PPC.

* * *

In Quezon City's fourth district, former Rep. Edcel Lagman seems to be scoring an upset over Quezon City Mayor Mel Mathay. Lagman is way ahead in the race with the support of the big UP community, with Mel coming in second, and Nannette Daza a poor third. Maybe it's a signal from the Lord that Mel, who suffers from poor health, should leave politics altogether.

In Palawan's second district, the late Monching Mitra's political heir, Baham Mitra, 31, has beaten by a two-to-one margin Teddy Peña, his father's old rival. Contributing to Baham's victory doubtless was the memory of Monching, but Baham himself has tremendous charisma. Another new face in Palawan politics is Dennis Socrates, who got enough sympathy votes over the untimely death of his father, the late Gov. Salvador Socrates, to beat his closest rival, Vicente Sandoval Jr., for mayor of Puerto Princesa.

For the Sandovals, it's win some, lose some, too. In Navotas-Malabon, Vicente's brother, Ricky Sandoval, is leading Tessie Oreta's lawyer-daughter, Rissa.

* * *

I mentioned former President Ramos' participation in the GMA Para sa Kawal Cup, where President Macapagal will lead in the ceremonial tee-off. FVR's support for the Alay sa Kawal (ASK) Foundation has been unwavering. He was the AFP chief of staff when our group of professionals, led by Ed Espiritu and Ramon Pedrosa as chair and president, respectively, launched ASK in August 1987, soon after the Honasan-led coup d'état during President Cory Aquino's term, to look after the welfare of families left orphaned by the death of ordinary soldiers. ASK was relaunched in Malacañang months after Ramos became president.

President Macapagal has also supported ASK with her own private donation. This Saturday, prior to the ceremonial tee-off, Ms Macapagal will preside over the ceremonial turnover of assistance and benefits to the widow of an AFP soldier killed in action and a beneficiary of ASK's scholarship program. For inquiries on the GMA Para sa Kawal Cup, please contact ASK at Tel. No. 9135428.

Filipino-American governor unpopular

COMMENTARY

Belinda A. Aquino

HONULULU—When Benjamin J. Cayetano was first elected governor of Hawaii in 1994, it was a time of rejoicing in the Filipino community. He broke the ethnic barrier in US politics by becoming the first American of Filipino ancestry to be elected to the highest elective position in a state of the union.

Reelected in 1998, he has only 18 months left in office. He cannot run for a third term under the state constitution. His bittersweet political career might end up being more bitter than sweet. The latest statewide poll conducted by Market Trends Pacific shows a severe drop in Cayetano's job performance rating, his lowest in the past three years. His unfavorable rating rose from 28 percent in January to 44 percent in May, or a dive of 57 percent.

What happened to Filipino Wonder Boy in America?

The answer lies in the historic strike pulled in April by the two education unions in the state: the Hawaii State Teachers Association (HSTA) with 13,000 members and the University of Hawaii Professional Assembly (UHPA) composed of more than 3,000 faculty. It was historic because it was the first statewide strike by the entire public school system, from kindergarten to graduate school. The shutdown affected 180,000 schoolchildren and 45,000 college and university students all over the state.

The teachers and professors struck because the collective bargaining talks regarding salary increases collapsed. Cayetano is the chief negotiator for the state in its negotiations with the unions. Since he became governor, Cayetano has been more fiscally conservative than the Republicans. In a sense, this is understandable because he inherited a cash-poor state administration, which coincided with a downturn in Hawaii's economy. If the Japanese tourists don't come, the economy plummets.

Cayetano aggressively attacked the unions for being selfish in their demands, while he dreamed of building a $50-million world-class aquarium in Honolulu, a spectacular theme park along the Ala Wai canal, another multimillion-dollar biomedical center to house the university school of medicine, and other "boondoggle" projects.

As public pressure grew for the state to settle with the unions, Cayetano became more intransigent. Not even the venerable senior US Sen. Daniel Inouye could move him.

Meanwhile, the teachers and professors grew more restless and frustrated. When the "cooling-off" period in the bargaining process expired, the unions were legally entitled to strike This should have been a signal to Cayetano to relent a little Instead, he remained adamant. The unions had no alternative but to walk out of their jobs. On April 5, the teachers and professors simultaneously set up picket lines, and labor history was made once again in a state built by the labor of working people. It made national news. CNN ran it second only to the international incident involving alleged American spying over Chinese air space.

As vice president of our faculty union, I was deeply involved in this strike. I was designate picket captain in one of the university entrances, a role I had never played before. It meant taking care of the "barricade," seeing to it that no violence occurred. It meant basically trying to persuade people not to cross the picket line. During strikes you have to send a message to the public that you intend to shut down the workplace. This "threat" has to be credible, and the fewer the people who cross the picket lines, the better. It was physically exhausting as we had to be on our feet three to four hours at a time. Not even Hawaii's pleasant weather provided comfort.

After two weeks, Cayetano settled with the UHPA. The teachers took three weeks. Had our strike lasted another week more, it would have been utter disaster The semester would have been lost and seniors wouldn't have been able to graduate. Irate students would have precipitated another major crisis in the state.

The galling thing about Cayetano is that without the teachers' union, he would not have been reelected governor. He won by a measly 5,000 votes over his Republican opponent, and that was largely provided by the teachers who campaigned vigorously for him. Ah, politics'

This latest poll is our vindication as educators in this state. It means the public agreed with our cause. The poll manager explained that Cayetano's drop in popularity was directly related to the strike. "He (Cayetano) was blamed for the fact that it even happened."

Cayetano's response was predictable. "I had to make some tough decisions which upset many people." He doesn't worry about the polls, he added.

But why should he? He cannot run again, so why should he worry' Now, who's being selfish?

But when asked whether he was not worried about the negative public sentiment regarding his handling of the strike, his response was revealing of the insecurity of the man. "As you know, I have no problems with being unloved," he said.

Oh, brother!

Belinda A. Aquino is professor of Political Science and Asian Studies at the University of Hawaii at Manoa where she is also director of the Center for Philippine Studies.

Remembering the amazing poor

HUMAN FACE

Ma. Ceres P. Doyo

SHE remembers those golden mornings when she would come out to the yard and out to the clearing, gather her *tapis* in front of her and fill it with grain. "Oh, the joy of it all," she says, describing the happy cackle of hens and the flutter of wings. "You know how it feels, standing there, calling out to the beasts and fowls and seeing them come running at your feet, so many of them of different colors."

The place was Mindanao, the year 1954, when Mindanao was neither Sur nor Norte. Josefina Cabrera and her brood were among the 500 families from all over the country that settled in Lanao under the program of President Ramon Magsaysay. Mindanao then was enticingly touted as "The Land of Promise" and indeed it was, until men, clever and scheming, came to rob it of its secrets. But that is another story.

A Tondo woman, Aling Josie is now. She is steeped in the wisdom of city side streets and slimy *esteros*, of the garbage dumps and open-air latrines. A handful of bones, skin and phlegm she is, constantly expectorating and throwing out the rot of the years. But she is far from worn-out and has still many miles to go. A leader, she must lead. A speaker, she must speak to all who wish to listen and even to those who will not listen. Aling Josie is like a female Moses to thousands of squatters in search of a home they can call their own.

For more than 15 years, she has been very active in organizing work among the homeless and the poor. She is, after all, one herself. Homeless in the sense that she knows she could one day wake up staring into the blue above. Thrice in the past, this happened to her. And if not for her almost animal survival instinct and her raw knowledge of the natural laws that define what a human being should be, she would now be a silent human worm inching her way to nowhere. Tondo is where she belongs now. Here she has fought to stay to continually claim a little patch of earth which she hopes will be hers one day.

How Aling Josie came to the forest of shanties that much of Tondo is, is many a slum dweller's story. Aling Josie is Everysquatter, her quest for a home like that of so many thousands who, because of poverty, have been tossed here and there, up and down as in a storm at sea. Through sheer guts and grit they survive, even multiply. But that is all they are—jetsam on their native shores.

Aling Josie was the voice for the Pagkakaisa ng mga Maralitang Tagalunsod (KPML), an alliance of organizations of the urban poor which spearheaded the move toward decent housing for many of the cities' "squatters." *Was* because, okay, I wrote the above as opening paragraphs for the long story on Josie Cabrera that appeared in the INQUIRER in 1987. Her cinematic life could easily be made into a novel or movie—how she left her hometown in Bicol to search for a better life in Manila. Then off she went to Cavite and then Mindanao as one of the first settlers in the vast wilderness which was home to indigenous communities.

But the land of promise did not hold much promise, killed one of her young children and her family's hope as well. Next stop was Samar, where she and her husband worked as coconut farmers, with Josie climbing coconuts herself. Still there was not enough for her family.

They tried Manila once more, and settled in another "land of promise" (*lupang pinangako*), a reclamation area in Tondo. Here in Manila she became a scavenger until the work took its toll and Josie became like a crumpled piece of paper. When she got better she took it easy and became fond of gambling. She adopted bourgeois ways.

But then something happened. She metamorphosed into a good community leader—articulate, committed, dauntless. How that happened is a story in itself. Josie led her people and fought demolitions and reblocking while challenging the government to do things the right way. Her work bore fruit. The poor enjoyed some degree of stability and were able to improve their homes through on-site development. They did not have to go away. It's a long story, I tell you.

Aling Josie, where are you?

Why am I looking for Aling Josie? Where is she? Why am I going down memory lane? I've been trying to track her down these past days and my efforts have been unsuccessful. I want to speak to Aling Josie because of what has been happening to the poor recently. I want her to explain to me the things I cannot understand. How have so many poor people become so angry and so full of hate? How have they come to this? Why are they being swallowed into a dirty "class war" being conjured by the rich pretending to love the poor?

The so-called experts have been frothing in the mouth, explaining away the recent phenomenon. They think they have all the answers. They have the scholarly answers, yes. But I want to hear it from Aling Josie.

I remember Aling Josie's vitriolic speeches, the fire in her voice, the laughter that came from her guts. She was as small and wiry as Aling Mameng Deunida, the new firebrand from the Malate slums who is now showing us how the empowered poor can demand change and a better life through organized, meaningful action.

And there was Terry Margallo, one of the leaders of the Sama-sama organization of slum dwellers in Bataan Hills. Hers was an against-all-odds story that showed how a wisp of a girl could claw her way out of the misery that defined her childhood.

These amazing women are still relatively poor, yes, but empowered. I have a nostalgia for their kind, I want to hear their voices again, listen to what they have to say to me. These are the poor whose voices I trust and relish, because they have remained true to their class. They know when to clench their fists and when to open them in order to reach out. They are truly poor but truly free. Unafraid. Dignified. They are the kind who will not be dirt poor all their lives.

My English classmate

YOUNGBLOOD

Tintin Cayetano

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—Ed.

HE was my seatmate in our English class, and he was the first boy I ever loved. Of course, he just sat there, not knowing that his seatmate was obsessed with him. He was the topic of every conversation, of every English paper I have written (and here I am writing about him, again), and even of the novelette required for Creative Writing (and I got an "A" on that—amazing how love inspires!).

I really don't know why among all the boys in Ateneo, it was he whom I fancied. He wasn't drop-dead gorgeous. He had a boyish face. He was taller than me (I am 5'8"), lanky but unbelievably graceful. He smelled wonderful, too (with the kind of scent that just makes you want to close your eyes and breathe deeply). He usually kept to himself and was not part of the typical rowdy group of guys who did nothing but talk about their newest cars and latest conquests. I guess it was his sense of individuality—how he refused to become typecast, how he stood his ground and was firm on being his own self—that first caught my interest.

I would go through the day wondering if I would see him, and when I did, I mustered the courage to talk to him. Every moment with him ended up being analyzed for the hidden meanings of his body language and his spoken lines.

He was a bit indifferent to me and to my efforts at being friends with him. I wasn't wise enough to take the hint and simply turn and walk in a different direction. In fact, I took it as a challenge. He was going to like me, and nothing could stop me from making him "see" me. I was in an honors class, was definitely not a dumb conversationalist and I wasn't bad-looking (although photos at that period of my life made me wonder why I didn't think about plucking my eyebrows).

I became a supersleuth and found out everything I could about him: what he liked, what he didn't like, who his favorite X-Men character was (Wolverine), what province he was from, who his favorite boy-band was (The Beatles). I was not content with being his fan; I wanted to be his friend (and more than a friend eventually). So I studied his schedule, went to places where he would be and pretended that I just happened to be there. He was kind enough to acknowledge my presence—after all, he was my seatmate. There were even times when he would linger and actually participate in the dialogue I started, which, more often than not, ended up being a monologue, and after five minutes he would excuse himself and walk away.

For two years of my college life that was the routine—a routine, which at that time, I refused to break and could not live without. Despite the humiliation of not being noticed (I might as well have flagellated myself and that would have been less painful), I stubbornly persisted in my quest to make him fall for me, as I had for him. The elation that came with just seeing him fueled that stubbornness. I kept at it until that time he went away.

He came and disappeared from my life as quickly as I could rush to the Cervini cafeteria after morning class just to see him eat lunch. He probably couldn't take this stalker any longer or just tried to sort out what he wanted in his life.

You know what? I didn't mind not seeing him anymore. I had gotten tired of the never-ending roller-coaster ride, the ambivalence of it all: the way I liked and hated him at the same time, the way he made me feel wonderful and miserable, how he'd pay attention one moment and ignore me the next.

One year after he left, I fell in love with his best friend who had the common sense to see how great a person I was and was loving me back despite my hang-up. He put up with my constant whining, patronized me when I needed affirmation and was simply there whatever state I was in.

We have been together for six years, and it hasn't been a roller-coaster ride. It is more like being in bed, wrapped in a comfortable blanket on a cold, rainy day, with a cup of hot chocolate and a good book to read. Warm, cozy, without having to worry about putting our best foot forward—that is how we are. Honestly, I prefer the bed to the roller coaster.

But fate ruled that our paths would cross again. I was looking for a friend through the Internet two months ago, when I accidentally found him. I did not hesitate to send him a message asking how he had been. I really don't know how he found out it was me (must be because he grew up to become some sort of a computer whiz).

Suddenly all those feelings that were buried by the years and other preoccupations turned up, and honestly, I did not know what to do with them. There I was, almost a full-fledged doctor, committed to a boyfriend of six years, and a total advocate of rational thinking, feeling all gooey and soft inside.

We started to correspond and I soon found out why he left and what happened to him after Ateneo. I might have sounded too eager, but to hell with appearances: this was the first guy who ever made me feel as if I have the ability to levitate.

I don't know if it was coincidence, but he came at a time when I was having doubts about my current relationship (the seven-year itch, my friends call it). And knowing of his existence did not help at all.

In the course of our written conversations, I found out that he was about to get married to a woman he had met several months earlier. I didn't know what hit me. It was like a stab on the chest.

I had no reason to feel that way. It had been eight years, and I thought I had attained closure. I then realized that I had been carrying a torch for him, a torch that secretly burned in my subconscious.

So I decided, with firm resolve, to finally get over him, to let go. I gathered all my courage and told him, in one of my letters, how I felt.

The words just tumbled out of me, like water let out of a dam. And, boy, did it feel good. To have held on to those feelings—be it love or infatuation—for eight years without telling him was a mistake. I should have told him a long time ago. I could have been rejected, but at least I told him. At least I would not have missed an opportunity to tell someone he was loved.

I thought it would be the last time I would hear from him, but he wrote back and acknowledged how I felt. I was surprised, but I got another important lesson: Never underestimate your ability to give and receive love.

And so, our correspondence continues, though erratic and irregular. I don't know if we are, indeed, going to become friends (in the truest sense of the word), as I wished a long time ago. But this I am sure of: I have gathered all there is inside me that pertain to him and attained peace. I know now that love can be given willingly to another even if one knows it cannot be returned and that the friendship between two individuals in an authentic loving relationship eventually becomes the force that protects you from the wear and tear of the years, from the monotony of routine, from the viciousness of everyday living.

Tintin Cayetano, 26, finished BS Biology at the Ateneo de Manila University and medicine at the UERM-MMC College of Medicine.

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'Protest' vote

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

AS I write this, the Puwersa ng Masa is giving the People Power Coalition a run for its money. It's not just Noli de Castro who's among the Magic 13 (he's No. 1, as expected), it 's also the candidates the Edsa II veterans love to hate. Edgardo Angara, Loi Estrada, Panfilo Lacson and Gregorio Honasan are there, and Miriam Defensor-Santiago, Ricardo Puno and Juan Ponce Enrile are threatening to barge in.

Of course, everybody says we'll know for sure only by the end of the week. But this early, we may speculate on why the PnM seems to have done well, or not as horribly as one might have expected. I myself thought that after May 1, when "Edsa III" went out with a bang (and a whimper) in Mendiola, the PPC would surge ahead and reclaim what they had lost the previous week. I thought the mayhem would work against the PnM by producing strong images of death and destruction that would drown out the ones supplied by Erap's arrest, with the result that the PPC would win by a rout. As it turns out, the elections were a little more complicated than that.

Reuters has a point when it speaks of the Monday elections as taking place under the shadow of the "wrath of the poor." I myself have been talking lately to some people who voted mainly for the PnM candidates, asking them why they did so. The preponderant answer is that they did so to fight back. "What they did to us was unfair," they said. The "us" being the poor, and the "they," well, there were three of them.

One was the Catholic Church, or specifically Jaime Cardinal Sin who, they said, treated them like dirt. They particularly resented what he said at the start of "Edsa III," which was that the crowd that massed at the shrine was a bunch of interlopers who were desecrating holy ground. They were not aware of Sin's apology last Sunday. And even if they were, they said, they would have thought it too little too late.

A member of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines confirmed to me last Monday the depth of the poor's anger at the attitude taken by Sin toward "Edsa III." Over the last two weeks, he said, parishioners in impoverished communities would tell their priests they had gone to Sunday Mass only out of obligation and not because they felt loyal to the Church, or its officials. Such was the extent to which they had been alienated. That was the reason Sin issued his apology, to mend the rift. Alas, too late for the elections.

The media were the second culprit. The people I talked to also resented the apparent bias of the media in reporting events. Of course, the crowd at "Edsa III" was hostile to newspaper and TV reporters, they said, particularly those from the INQUIRER and from GMA 7 and ABS-CBN, but that was the effect, not the cause. They had been stoked to war mode first by media's snub of them—only Net 25 was giving them the attention they deserved, they said—and then later by media's suggestions, or outright, claims that they were *bayaran* and religious conscripts. Like the Church, they said, the media were obviously only on the side of the rich. Or more to the point, they were against the poor.

And finally, there were the *sonas*, they said. The 5-year-old boy who died in one of them, they said, merely typified the brutality of the cops who made the raids under the cloak of a state of rebellion. That was by no means the only horror story that took place in the slums they swooped down on. Those things, they said, would not have happened in Magallanes Village or Forbes Park. No cop would have dared enter those places with truncheon in one hand and shield in another and dragged out from their houses residents still drooling from the fumes of hashish. The cops' contempt for life was limited to the lives of the poor. Like the Church and media, the government too was obviously on the side of the rich—and against the poor.

Were these sentiments harbored by a great many voters in the last elections? I don't know-yet. I do know that the people I talked to were unusually vocal about these sentiments. One said she was especially incensed by the ads that told the public not to vote for Erap's chosen. She made it a point to vote just for that, and to vote the very ones the ad said not to. I remembered this in particular when I learned that these elections had one of the biggest turnout rates in history: 85 percent of voters. That implies a great deal of volition or desire on the part of the voters, particularly the poor, who have not been known to participate in the exercise with alacrity. Those sentiments may help explain it. The poor decided to vote not because they were paid in cash or kind, the kind including spiritual salvation—which was how they were depicted at "Edsa III"—but because they wanted to.

If so, then bizarre as it may seem, we may be looking at a good deal of PnM votes as some kind of "protest" vote. I put the "protest" in quotes because like "Edsa III" it is another one of those weird phenomena that seem endemic in these parts but need a lot of explaining to make sense. On the surface, or at the level of intellectual rationality—that is the surface in this culture—it may seem like pretty distorted logic to assign "protest" to an expression of support for some of the most reactionary figures ever to occupy this country's political world, or some of the most monstrous creatures ever to inhabit this country's netherworld. But if the sentiments I heard are true and prevalent among the poor, then it is not so distorted at all.

Taken individually, Sin's utterances, the seeming bias of the media, and the *sonas* may just mean another round of insult added to injury thrown the poor's way. Taken together, and in the context of Erap's plight, a plight the poor have symbolically (never underestimate the power of symbols!) identified with, they take on the powerful suggestion, with all its emotional resonance, that society's institutions have banded against the poor. The logic of protest precisely is that it is defined by what it is against rather than what it is for. The votes for the PnM probably signify less a vote for Loi and Lacson than a vote against President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo and Sin. If a dog were the perfect foil for Ms Macapagal and Sin, they would probably vote for a dog.

The PPC may get the majority in these elections—8-5 is the trend as I write this—but I would very seriously suggest that they tone down the victory party. If the votes for the PnM are indeed some kind of "protest" vote by the poor, or a sector of it, then it will be rubbing salt on wounds. And as the poor have been showing of late, they won't be content to just lick them.

* * *

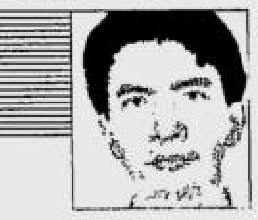
Comments are welcome at dequiros@vasia.com

Where voters fly

(Notes from an extraterrestrial anthropologist's notebook)

PINOY KASI

Michael L. Tan



FILIPINOS have a most fascinating exercise they call "*halalan*," conducted every three years. The protracted ritual lasts some three months, overlapping with and carrying the spirit of two other summer religious events. On one hand, it is a penitential rite similar to Lenten observances and timed during the warmest summer month of May. On the other hand, *halalan* is marked by the festive air of the Santacruzan, another semi-religious summer activity held in May.

In the three years leading up to a *halalan*, the country's crooks, cranks and clowns, collectively known as politicians, govern the country while systematically raiding the country's public funds for their private use. As the economy comes close to bankruptcy, the politicians do penance, redistributing part of their loot among the people through the *halalan* and trying to convince people to elect them for another three years of misrule. Rivals come on the scene to convince people they will do a better job at wrecking the economy.

For three months the citizens get to rule the country. Politicians roam the country with their traveling circus caravans and no expense is spared to entertain people with songs, dances, soap-opera skits, elocution contests, debates, boxing matches and occasional gun duels.

The highlight of this campaign period is the verbal mudslinging, where politicians accuse each other of being crooks, cranks and clowns. It is a difficult ritual to follow. The candidates goad each other into being as vicious as possible in their attacks. The more dishonest, ruthless and vile a candidate is depicted to be, the greater his or her chances of winning.

The *halalan* reaches its climax on Election Day. On this special day, the adults trek to designated places to do the ultimate penance of deciding who will oppress them for the next three years. Knowing how miserable their lives will be, the voters draw solace from knowing they can at least choose, from among these despicable creatures, the best dressed, the best looking, the most talented and the most congenial.

Election Day strengthens the voters, preparing them to endure the next three years. To do this, they are humiliated by every possible torment as they try to cast their votes. Like a herd of cattle, they are scolded, shouted at, prodded to move on. Those who successfully complete the day's ritual—and in many places they are a select and privileged few—are fingerprinted, then branded with a special indelible ink.

The intense piety of Election Day produces the most wondrous miracles. The dead are resurrected and the living declared dead. People discover numerous neighbors and town mates they never knew existed, many with the most extraordinary power to fly.

There are other miracles besides the living dead and flying voters. Food appears in great abundance, as do envelopes with money that find their way into the pockets of voters. There are even stories of multi-tasking miracles, such as loaves of bread materializing from nowhere to feed the hungry and which, when opened, yield crisp peso bills to nurture the spirit.

The most magical and mysterious activities revolve around sacred objects called "ballot boxes," where voters deposit their choices among politicians. On Election Day, officials bring in these boxes with great pomp and reverence and then open them for the public to view. They tilt the box to the left, to the right, forward and backward, and tap the bottom to counter rumors that it has hidden rabbits, pigeons and sexy starlets.

Although the voting ritual ends at 3 p.m., the ballot boxes are not opened for canvassing until night falls. In many places, electricity is cut off to allow canvassing to be done by candlelight. Other places opt for intermittent electricity, which creates a strobe-light effect.

A study is being conducted to determine if this canvassing by candlelight, or strobe light, is associated with occasional reports of canvassing-related rage, delirium and hallucinations, but traditionalists argue that these special effects are needed to vest the canvassing with a solemn aura. Canvassing is done as slowly as possible, which is again part of this solemnity.

Eventually, other miracles unfold around the ballot boxes and its contents. A phenomenon called *dagdag-bawas* has votes materializing and dematerializing, much like another great tradition in the country, that of psychic surgery. If voters are lucky, they are sometimes treated to the most dramatic miracle: that of entire ballot boxes being spirited away.

For those who are unable to witness the actual canvassing, modern technology allows people to follow the miracles from the comfort of their homes. Radio and television sets blare out very potent mantras called "Partial and Unofficial Returns" which politicians hope will affect the voting trends. In between these special prayers, radio and television shows feature soothsayers (and columnists) who offer their predictions about the final election results, and the future of the country.

Although the canvassing goes on for weeks, people eventually lose interest in the events after two or three days. The streets are cleaned and people return to their daily humdrum lives, relieved that they have done penance and confident that they have elected another competent bunch of crooks, cranks and clowns who will set new and higher standards for pillaging, in a style that will justify the next grand penitential *halalan*.

* * *

Comments to miguel@pinoykasi.org

LETTERS

From President Macapagal to 'Ate Glo'

IF there is one lesson that the siege of Malacañang Palace on Labor Day teaches us, it is that the government can ignore the cry of the masses for deliverance from poverty only at its own peril.

The angry slogans shouted at the top of their voices and the lamentations sent to the heavens by those who went to Edsa and Mendiola to articulate long-held grievances represent the rebellion of the poor that the government must now listen to and address squarely.

I am glad that President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo is gradually realizing that she is in office not to pay back political dues she owes to the Catholic Church, big business and the military who helped install her in Malacañang in place of the corrupt and incompetent Estrada administration but to serve the people. And the people who are her constituents are the poor and the marginalized, the farmers and the laborers, the low-income professionals and the self-employed who make up the overwhelming majority of Philippine society.

I believe the President is on the right track in committing her administration to serving the welfare and interests of the poor and the downtrodden, the millions of Filipinos who try with dignity and pride to eke out a decent living despite their meager resources. I am in complete agreement with the efforts of her administration to reach out to the masses and identify with them.

We all know that Estrada merely used the "Erap *para sa mahirap*" slogan as a convenient smoke screen for perfidy and plunder. President Macapagal must seize the moment to make a clean break with the past and lead the poor toward a better future

I think the effort to change the image of the President to one that the masses can readily sympathize with is a move in the right direction. If the makeover from President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo to simply "Ate Glo" is what's necessary to bring the government really closer to the people, why not?—**ROBERTO SAAVEDRA, 246 Lamayan St., Sta. Ana, Manila**

Nothing wasted in rice importations

THIS is in response to the letter of Pablo Rosales, secretary general of the Kilusan para sa Pambansang Demokrasya, which was published last April 17.

The National Food Authority imports rice to have a buffer stock to meet consumption requirements during the lean months and in preparation for any emergency. It is also intended to stabilize prices and supply throughout the entire country.

Rice importation is resorted to only after the Inter-Agency Committee on Cereals has determined that there is an expected decrease in production during a given crop year. This year, for instance, there is an expected improvement in harvest, but this will still be short of our food requirement.

It must be stressed that importations are timed so as not to adversely affect the Filipino farmers. They are released during the lean months when there is not much harvest.

The NFA has always been working to uplift the lives of every Filipino farmer. The NFA buys palay from local farmers at a price that is advantageous to them.

While the NFA assists the farmers, it also assures consumers' availability of supply at affordable prices. The agency also maintains order in the grains industry through its regulatory functions which keep businesses related to the industry profitable and in working order.

Nothing is wasted in the importation of rice as this is sold to Filipino consumers, including farmers.

The government cannot totally give up importation of rice for we might experience again what happened in 1995 when people had to queue up just to be able to buy a kilo of the basic staple. There was a tight supply of rice during that year. There was a high demand from consumers which led to the exorbitant price of rice.

The NFA takes to heart the welfare of the Filipino farmers and consumers. Its basic mandate is to protect their interests, which we cannot compromise. The Department of Agriculture family, which includes the NFA, maintains its program thrust toward self-sufficiency in our staple foods.—**ANTHONY R.A. ABAD, administrator, National Food Authority, Matimyas Bldg., 101 E. Rodriguez Sr. Avenue, Quezon City**

Getting rid of our fears and anxieties

POPE John Paul II repeatedly quotes our Lord's words, "Do not be afraid."

What is this fear of ours that he refers to in most of his homilies and letters? I think he is referring to the fears and anxieties we experience every day. Broadly, it must be the fear of losing everything we have become attached to over the years. The fear of losing our possessions coupled with the desire to acquire more—both material and psychological.

This heavy load disables us and prevents us from flying to our Lord and Savior, the only place where we can find comfort and contentment in the real sense.

Our Lord wants us to be free by being unattached to our possessions. He tells us that this is the only way we can attain joy and serenity. He is goodness itself.

Constant, ascetic struggle is the only thing required for Him to shower us with the graces we need. There will surely be ups and downs—that is our lot. However, with strong faith in the love of God, we learn to stand up and walk again each time we fall. Theologians say that if we fall on the third step of the ladder, we rise again on that third step and we don't have to start from the bottom.

Unity of Life assures us constancy in our ascetic struggle. It is life united to God and going toward Him in union with our militant brethren here on earth, our suffering brethren in purgatory and the triumphant souls in heaven. The early Christians and many holy men in the history of the Church have demonstrated this reality with their own lives.

By heroically living the Unity of Life, we remove the specter of anxiety and fear that bedevils us day to day. Our outlook will have the Christian vantage point, from where we can clearly see reality as our Lord sees it.

Unity of Life is God-centered, full of love for our Lord and for our companions in life's journey. We will learn to be less and less concerned about ourselves, having discovered that the root of our fears is self-centeredness

A wise old friend reminded me once that if we put all our energy to doing the will of God and loving our neighbors as our Lord loves them, the payback is great personal happiness.

At this point, fear will have no power to make us miserable.—**MANOLING DE LEON, 16 Polk St., North Greenhills, San Juan, Metro Manila**

Get on with Estrada's trial

JOSEPH Estrada's lawyers now oppose his early arraignment requested by the Ombudsman. These are the same people who said they wanted to expose the false accusations against Erap and the weakness of the Ombudsman's case. But now they would like to wait for the extradition of Erap's co-accused. They wonder why the Ombudsman is in a hurry to resolve the case.

Let us remind them of their claim that Erap is not an ordinary person when they were asking for special considerations while he is under detention. The nation is in the throes of uncertainty, which can only dissipate if judgment on his guilt or innocence is rendered.

Since the day Ilocos Sur Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson made his exposé on Erap's *jueteng* connection, the economy has been in the doldrums, the nation has been divided and its resources expended on non-productive undertakings related to his incarceration. The judiciary has also been distracted by peripheral issues arising from his demands, including the desire to vote in his bailiwick. The sooner his case is closed, the sooner will normalcy return to every facet of our national life.

Every effort must be made toward a speedy trial for Erap so that if he is innocent, he can be reinstated to the presidency and the nation apologize for the terrible wrong done to him; and if found guilty, the scoundrel can promptly be committed to Muntinlupa among his fellow wretched scum where he belongs. His lawyers can then return to their normal roles as sentinels of justice; and the nation can go on with its search for a decent existence.—**E.P. DAKANAY, 43 Baltazar St., Philamlife Village, Pamplona, Las Piñas City**

OFWs' electoral agenda

OUR overseas Filipino workers constitute at least 10 percent of the Philippine labor force. Their remittances give a big boost to our country's coffers. To do this, our OFWs face great risks and hardships. They are truly heroes, notwithstanding the bitterness the mere mention of the term leaves because they remain politically marginalized, denied even their right of suffrage.

The May 14 elections only served to emphasize the irony of their situation. They are praised for their economic contributions but reduced to second-class citizenship by being denied suffrage. However, this doesn't deter them from raising this issue and related concerns and urge all concerned to support the 10-point pro-OFW electoral agenda.

The Migrant Workers and Overseas Filipinos Act of 1995 (RA 8042) was a concrete gain for OFWs. Yet many of its provisions disregard major issues which affect OFWs, and allow the government to shirk responsibility for the protection of migrant rights. In the last six years, advocates and organizations of migrant workers have criticized the deregulation of the overseas labor employment industry and other government policies that run counter to the protection of migrants' rights and welfare.

The elections mean nothing if the candidates cannot understand such a basic thing as justice for our modern heroes. Indeed, there is a need to bring the 10-Point Pro-OFW Electoral Agenda into the hearts and minds of would-be legislators and make it a national concern.—**JERBERT M. BRIOLA, Resource and Advocacy Program, Kanlungan Centre Foundation Inc., Center for Migrant Workers, 77 K-10th St., Kamias, Quezon City**

How about holy priests?

THIS is in reaction to (ex-priest) Edward Kelly's letter titled, "Church dilemma: married priest or no priest."

St. Anthony Claret, one-time bishop of Cuba, founder of the Claretians, answers him: "In my diocese, better no priest than bad ones."

Dr. Scott Hahn, a Protestant biblical scholar and pastor, a convert to Catholicism, author of "Rome Sweet Home," professor of biblical theology at the Franciscan University, Stubenville, Ohio, answers him: "With the corruption of the clergy, comes the corruption of the people."

Again, Dr. Scott Hahn, commenting on the book of Leviticus answers him: "The priests have failed to attain holiness."

In answer to Kelly's dilemma, I suggest a third alternative: holy priests.

A tall order? Yes. Very hard? Yes. Impossible? No.

"Come to me all you who labor and are heavily burdened and I will refresh you. For My yoke is sweet and My burden light." (Mt. 13:12-13)

"Let him who can accept this teaching (celibacy) do so." (Mt. 19:13)

God, through the prophet, Jeremiah, answers Kelly's problem: "I will give you shepherds after My own heart, and these shall feed you on knowledge and discretion." (Jer. 3:15)

God knows best. He'll solve the problem "in His time," in His way. Is not the Church His own making.—**REV. FR. JUAN E. BONAFE, S.J., Xavier House, 2307 Pedro Gil, Sta Ana, Manila**

The WORLD

Wahid threatens tough action vs impeachment

JAKARTA—Threatened with impeachment, Indonesia's first democratically chosen president in decades warned yesterday that he would take tough action to defend the Constitution against violations by lawmakers.

President Abdurrahman Wahid, who has denounced a campaign by parliament to topple him as illegal, said attempts to broker a compromise to end a long running crisis must not contravene the 1945 Constitution that grants sweeping powers to the head of state.

"We can make any kind of political concession as long as it does not go against the Constitution," he said at a military think-tank seminar.

"As soon as there is a violation of the Constitution, as a nation we must be courageous and take action to prevent the erosion of the Constitution."

WAHID

He did not elaborate.

However, Adhi Massardi, a presidential spokesperson, later explained that Wahid regarded his impending impeachment as "a grave constitutional violation."

"The president has wide ranging powers to do whatever he feels is necessary to prevent chaos in this country. It will depend on the political developments," Massardi said.

The spokesperson said that Wahid felt that some proposals for him to become a figurehead leader and surrender executive power to Vice President Megawati Sukarnoputri were also unconstitutional.

In recent weeks, Indonesia's military has warned the president not to attempt to dissolve parliament or declare martial law.

Parliament has twice censured Wahid over allegations of corruption and incompetence. It is planning to formally ask the nation's highest legislative body, the People's Consultative Assembly, to impeach him, possibly by August.

The assembly is the same body that elected Wahid to office in October 1999.

Wahid denies any wrongdoing.

His presidency began with hopes of reform after 32 years of dictatorship. But it soon became mired in scandal and political infighting. *AP*

4 dead in Aceh violence

JAKARTA—A school teacher and two policemen were among four people killed in the latest violence in Indonesia's Aceh province, police said yesterday.

The bloodshed came a day after Foreign Minister Alwi Shihab said he would visit the United States to reassure Washington that Indonesia was not conducting a military operation to crush separatists in Aceh.

Shihab said he would explain to congressional leaders that Jakarta was promoting dialogue with the rebels and speeding up development in the oil and gas-rich region, on the northern tip of Sumatra island.

Violence between insurgents and security forces in Aceh has claimed more than 6,000 lives in the last 10 years. A series of ceasefires have failed to stop the bloodshed, currently at its highest level ever.

Police spokesperson Capt. Sudarsarno said a gun battle on Tuesday between guerrillas and security forces in a village in the south of the province left two civilians dead. In a second clash, rebels ambushed a police patrol in the west of the province killing two officers. *AP*

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Talks on missile shield to continue

BEIJING—China and the United States are at odds over a proposed US missile shield, but initial talks on the issue were constructive, a US envoy said yesterday.

US state department official James Kelly said Chinese officials agreed to further discussions over the planned missile defense system along with US proposals for curbing weapons proliferation and reducing America's nuclear forces.

"Although we clearly still have differences of opinion, our consultations on this subject were constructive and constitute a good beginning," Kelly said in a departure statement released by the US Embassy.

Earlier, China's foreign ministry said talks on Tuesday had not softened Beijing's opposition.

Ministry spokesperson Sun Yuxi urged Washington to abandon its plan, saying the system would endanger the global strategic balance, spark an arms race and frustrate arms control efforts.

China would not "wait idly and see its national interests being undermined," Sun told reporters Tuesday, without specifically saying how China would respond. China has previously said it could beef up its small nuclear arsenal or improve the technology of its missiles to overcome the US defenses.

Kelly, an assistant secretary for East Asian and Pacific affairs, met with China's chief arms control official, Sha Zukang, and other Foreign Ministry officials. Kelly said he reiterated US arguments that the system wasn't aimed at China, but intended to defend against accidental missile launches or attacks from unpredictable countries such as North Korea.

"I stressed that our plans for a missile defense system would not be a threat to China," Kelly said.

His visit to China and earlier stops in Japan, South Korea, Australia and Singapore were part of a global diplomatic push by the United States to ameliorate concerns over the system. US diplomats have been dispatched to Russia, which has joined with China in opposing the plan, as well as to US allies in Europe who have given the US plans a tepid response.

Kelly said the sides also discussed returning the US Navy EP-3E Aries II surveillance plane that made an emergency landing on southern China's Hainan island after an April 1 collision with a Chinese fighter jet over the South China Sea.

The crash, which killed the Chinese pilot, and China's 11-day detention of the US plane's crew, inflamed nationalist passions on both sides. China has refused to allow the United States to fly the plane home after repairs. However, the two sides agreed to use diplomatic channels to secure the plane's quick release, Kelly said.

Taiwan and China's human rights records, issues on which China and the United States differ sharply, were also discussed during the talks, Kelly said.

China considers Taiwan its territory and objects strongly to US arms sales to the island..

In addition, China has protested Washington's allowing Taiwanese President Chen Shui-bian to soon visit the United States on his way to and from Latin America, saying that violates U.S. promises not to have official contacts with Taiwan's government.

Beijing rejects as bullying Washington's criticism that it jails political opponents, muzzles free speech and restricts freedom of worship. *AP*

Indian PM defends nuke arms capability

KUALA LUMPUR—In comments apparently aimed at neighbor and rival Pakistan, Indian Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee said yesterday his country needed nuclear weapons because it was the victim of cross-border terrorism which sought to "redraw national boundaries."

In a speech which wound up a four-day visit to Malaysia, Vajpayee assured Southeast Asian countries that his government would keep its nuclear weapons out of the region and criticized other nuclear weapon states for showing "no intention" to disarm.

"India has been a victim of state-sponsored and cross-border terrorism seeking to redraw national boundaries," Vajpayee told 300 foreign diplomats and businessmen at a function in Kuala Lumpur.

"Such violence in the name of holy war is a grave menace and endangers a peaceful and civilized global order."

India and Pakistan have fought three wars since they won independence from Britain in 1947, two of them over control of Kashmir province. A ceasefire line divides Kashmir between the two nations, which both possess and have tested nuclear weapons.

Dozens of militant and political groups have been fighting to end India's control over Kashmir. New Delhi accuses Islamabad of fomenting and backing the insurgency, a charge Pakistan denies.

India has pledged no first use of nuclear weapons and to end nuclear tests, but rejects the UN Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty, which it says does not eliminate nuclear weapons, but only restricts them to certain countries.

Vajpayee, leader of the world's largest democracy, yesterday described the treaty as "hopelessly flawed."

The United States has eased military sanctions against India imposed after New Delhi conducted nuclear tests in 1998, followed by similar explosions by Pakistan.

Vajpayee said India needed to "maintain a credible nuclear deterrent," and had demonstrated it was responsible owner of weapons.

"We have proven that India is neither a proliferation threat nor an exporter of sensitive nuclear or missile technology," he said.

Vajpayee said India recognized Southeast Asia as a nuclear weapons-free zone and that "we are willing to convert this recognition into a . . commitment."

The Association of Southeast Asian Nations, of Asean, has repeatedly asked nuclear weapons states including the United States and Russia to ratify its declaration that the region is nuclear weapon free. *AP*

Tokyo war shrine back in limelight

TOKYO—The scene is peaceful: Stone lanterns and cherry trees line a path running under a graceful arch. Beyond, stairs lead beneath a gold-trimmed roof into the silent wooden shrine.

Peaceful, yes—but the theme here is war.

Honored within the airy precincts of Yasukuni Shrine are Japan's 2.5 million war dead, including executed war criminals, architects of Tokyo's bloody march through Asia and its surprise assault on Pearl Harbor.

Now Japan's new prime minister has put the shrine and its tortured history back in the headlines with a pledge to pay a visit himself—with no apologies to his country's former victims.

"Our present peace and prosperity are built on the sacrifices of the war dead," Junichiro Koizumi declared under harsh questioning in Parliament on Tuesday. "I don't understand why worshipping at Yasukuni is criticized every day like this."

Such a visit—scheduled for Aug. 15, the 56th anniversary of Japan's World War II surrender—is certain to outrage countries that suffered under Japanese wartime aggression, especially South Korea and China.

The last prime minister to go on that symbolic date was Yasuhiro Nakasone in 1985. Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto went to Yasukuni on his birthday in July 1996 without specifying it if was a private or official visit, but the furor abroad was so intense he canceled subsequent visits while in office.

The visit to the shrine in Tokyo is one of several stances Koizumi has taken since assuming office last month indicating a more nationalistic approach. He has also suggested that Japan's pacifist Constitution be revised to allow the military to take a bigger international role.

Koizumi's position on Yasukuni could be seen as a way to placate conservative elements in his ruling party unhappy with his plans for painful structural reforms.

Politically motivated or not, Koizumi's sentiments about the past match the mood these days in Japan, where many are weary of being cast as the villains of 20th century history. *AP*

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US colleges becoming fast-track high schools

SCHENECTADY, New York—From the back, he looks like any other college student measuring electron spin, with his thin wavy hair in a ponytail halfway down his back and his shoulders hunched over a flickering oscilloscope screen.

The boyish voice exclaiming, "Neat!" gives him away. Jackson Reed is 14.

At two and a half, he was memorizing books. By 6, he was mastering algebra and hating school.

"I became cynical about halfway through first grade," Reed remembered during a conversation in the Union College campus center. "We were doing these speed tests, like '2 plus 2' . . . I would get half of them wrong. Of course, I didn't care. But everyone would constantly harass me."

In the annals of world genius, there have always been Jacksons—children so smart there is nothing to do but send them to college and hope they thrive.

In the past, they have been consistently rare, said Cliff Adelman of the National Center for Education. The number of university students under 18 has corresponded neatly with the nation's birth rate and college attendance rate. In 1997, the latest data available, just 2.4 percent—or 353,000 of 14.5 million high school students—were enrolled in higher education.

Yet those who specialize in academically gifted students say they have observed a recent surge in the numbers of those at four-year schools, a trend they credit to more college-educated families, more enrichment programs, home schooling, and even to higher IQs.

Reed's mother pulled him out of school when bullying started at age 8.

"He was definitely picked on," said Janet Reed. "He thought differently and he was different. You know how kids are."

Private school cost too much, so education became a family project involving everything from Internet coursework and mail-order lectures to Mom's old college textbooks.

At 12, he got a 1540 on the SAT; 1600 is a perfect score on the college aptitude exam.

Last year, he entered Union, a small campus of 2,000 students known for educating future computer scientists, biologists and engineers. It's also only about a half-hour drive from the Reeds' Troy home. All that's important, Janet Reed said. "Basically, this is his high school.".

Math professor Julius Barbanel said he would talk to Reed on the same level as he would a colleague.

Student Greg Schwanbeck, 19, who has been Reed's occasional lab partner, said he would treat Reed as an equal—who's really smart.

"I learned early on in physics that you definitely want to fit in with those at the top of the physics pecking order," Schwanbeck said. "He's right up there."

Kids are a lot brighter than they used to be, according to Julian Stanley, a psychologist who started the Center for Talented Youth at Johns Hopkins University back in 1972.

"When I went to high school there was no calculus, there was no physics," said Stanley, who is 82. "Now it's a lazy bright kid who doesn't take calculus. It used to be we collected butterflies and catalogued them. Now they have to do something that looks like a Ph.D. dissertation."

While Stanley defends the best public high schools as being very good, the Center for Talented Youth is increasingly referring students to college campuses. And colleges are opening their doors to the younger students, even tailoring a few programs by setting up mini-campus centers, counselors and supervised dorms. Sensing a market, some universities are assuming the role of super-accelerated high schools.

"Maybe it's the competition to get the best and brightest," said Linda Brody, director of the center's Study of Exceptional Talent. "We're seeing it more and more. It's a trend."

Four years ago, following a summer program at Duke University that she describes as "three weeks of pure bliss" with "other nerds that were just like me," Danielle Correll left school after the eighth grade to enter Mary Baldwin College in Staunton, Virginia. There, she triple majors in art, international relations and French.

"It's a bit of a leap to being the child of your parents to being a free spirit at a liberal arts college," said Correll, now 17 and about to graduate. "But in my case it was probably the best possible circumstance. I really don't think (high school) is a necessary stop."

The women's college allows students to skip from junior high to college. Initially, girls are in special dorms with extra supervision. By the second or third year they are usually integrated with the rest of the student body.

AP

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Thursday, May 17, 2001
5th Week of Easter

1st Reading: Acts 15:7-21
Gospel: Jn 15:9-11

Jesus said to his disciples, "As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; remain in my love. You will remain in my love if you keep my commandments, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and remain in his love.

I have told you all this, that my own joy may be in you and your joy may be complete."

Commentary:

When we open up our lives to God's love for us in Jesus Christ, we get caught in the whole cycle of love within the Godhead. This is the realization that we should obtain from our baptismal consecration. Sometimes the Christianity we profess is merely moralistic. Morality is only a consequence of being addressed by God's love. And once we have turned away from an immoral or self-centered life, we go even beyond simply being moral. Our true joy consists in abiding in that love and in doing its demands at the sacrifice of oneself. Taste the goodness of the Lord and see many avenues of life opening to your own surprise.

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DIGEST BY R.B. VERA

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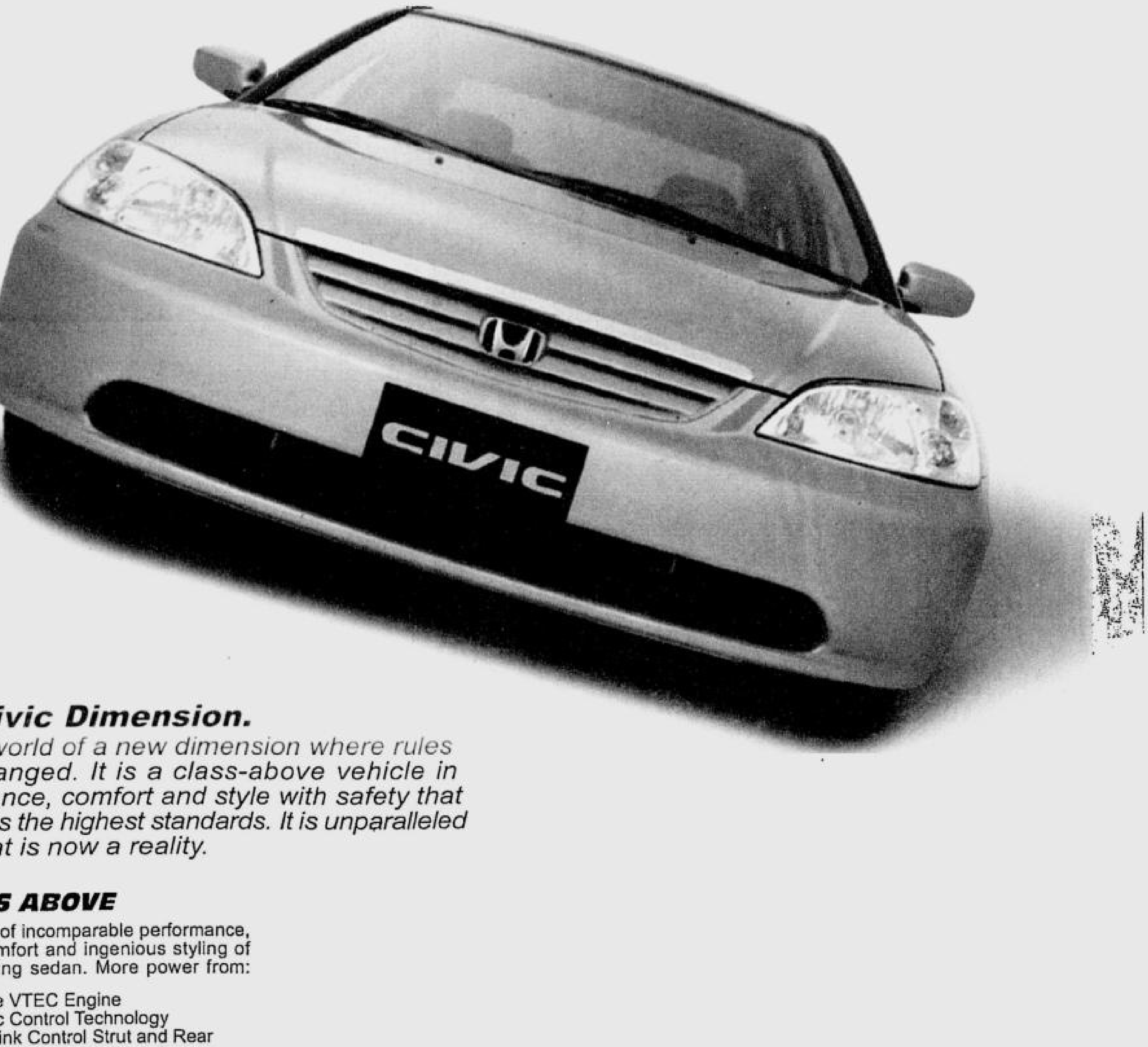

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Across the NATION

TONY BERGONIA, Assistant Editor

Lanao count turns deadly

Municipal treasurer shot dead during canvassing

LANAO del Sur is living up to its reputation as an election hot spot.

At 7 a.m. yesterday, the municipal treasurer of Bombaran was shot and killed inside the town hall of Wao.

The victim, Elias Taher, was reading election returns when a certain PO1 Ishak Abdul, a bodyguard of Bombaran Comelec official Datu Faisal Depasoan, shot him with an M14 rifle.

A certain Jamil was also killed by a stray bullet, while two persons, including a pregnant woman, were wounded and are now in critical condition.

The canvassing of votes from Bombaran is being held in Wao.

Namfrel volunteer Jomar Ubagan of Wao said the shooting was election-related. He did not elaborate.

The suspect surrendered to the 152nd PNP Mobile Group Company in Wao.

In Cotabato City, a grenade explosion temporarily halted the ongoing canvassing of election returns in Banisilan, North Cotabato on Tuesday night and scared poll watchers away.

Additional troopers were immediately deployed to the Banisilan Central Elementary School, the canvassing site, where a grenade exploded, said Maj. Julieto Ando, spokesperson of the Army's 6th Infantry Division.

"No one was hurt, but it caused panic," Ando said.

Witnesses said they saw a group of armed men in civilian clothes, who quickly disappeared after the blast.

The canvassing resumed after more soldiers arrived to secure the place, Ando said.

In Parang, Maguindanao, another grenade exploded in front of the town hall where the canvassing of votes was being held.

Senior Supt. Acmad Omar, police chief for the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao, said no one was hurt in the blast.

In Basilan, an M-203 grenade exploded near the fence of the Basilan National High School yesterday.

Col. Jovenal Narcise, 103rd Infantry Brigade officer in charge, said no one was reported hurt, but the explosion caused panic.

In Cebu City, three policemen are facing investigation for Monday's killing of a mayoral candidate's supporter in Naga town, 21 kilometers south of this city.

PO3 Julito Navales, PO2 Miguel Castañares and SPO2 Tito Suan, all Naga policemen, were restricted to camp Cebu Provincial Police Office (CPPO) pending the results of the inquiry.

"They have been stripped of their badges and are facing summary dismissal proceedings," said Chief Supt. Avelino Razon, police director for Central Visayas.

The policemen were accused of killing Panfilo Herediano.

The Regional Investigation and Intelligence Division was also asked to check if the policemen had any political affiliation, Razon said.

Herediano, 47, a supporter of Naga vice mayor and mayoral candidate Paulino Ong, was shot dead by Navales about 1 p.m. near a public school in a mountain village of Tuyan, some 14 km from the town proper.

The victim died of gunshot wounds in the back and the left eyebrow. Ong (Promdi) is challenging the reelection bid of Naga Mayor Ferdinand Chiong (Alayon).

Navales claimed self-defense, saying Herediano fired at him first. He said he, Castañares and Suan went to the mountain village to check reports of the presence of armed men.

Navales said he and the other policemen chanced upon Herediano's group on board a white van.

Herediano's group immediately fired at them forcing the policemen to return fire, Navales claimed. He said Herediano had a 9mm pistol.

Lawyer Paul Clarence Oaminal, who was with Herediano's group, claimed they were unarmed and were just monitoring the elections in the hinterland village when the policemen came and fired at them without provocation.

Razon said initial investigation showed that there were inconsistencies in the statements of the three policemen.

He said the policemen were in civilian clothes when the shooting took place contrary to allegations that they were in police uniform.

He said he also found that the three policemen changed into their uniforms before turning themselves in to the Naga police station.

Razon also said after the shooting, the three policemen did not bring the victim to the hospital. Neither did they preserve the crime scene.

Instead, he added, the three merely left the area without attending to the dying Herediano. *H. Marcos Mordeno, Allan Nawal, Charlie Señase, Jonathan Ma, Julie Alipala-Inot, PDI Mindanao Bureau and Connie Fernandez, PDI Visayas Bureau*

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Republic of the Philippines
Department of Agrarian Reform
PROVINCIAL AGRARIAN REFORM OFFICE
Iloilo Province
Luna St., La Paz, Iloilo City

10 May 2001

ALL LANDOWNERS
Iloilo Province

Sir/Madam:

Pursuant to Section 7 of RA 6657 otherwise known as Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Law of 1988, as amended, you are hereby notified that your respective landholding/s herein listed and located in the Province of Iloilo, are now covered under this program.

In this connection, we would like to request you or any of your authorized representatives to signify in writing your acceptance/rejection of the coverage of the subject landholding/s within 30 days from date of publication of this notice. If we cannot receive any reply from you within the prescribed period, we proceed with the acquisition and distribution of the landholding/s in accordance with law, guidelines and procedures relative thereto.

Name of Landowners	Title/Lot No.	Area (Has.)	Location
1. Municipal Government of Janiuay	O-9224/5610	1.0000	Agcarope, Janiuay
2. Cornelio Lenteja m/t Marina Lorenzo, Pilar Lentija m/t Raymundo Lerenia, Ildefonso Lenteja m/t Rosalina Mamon, Adelina Lentija m/t Delfin Sevanto, Cristeta Lentija m/t Ildefonso Pangantihan	O-9224-5610	40.6950	Agcarope, Janiuay
3 Elpidio J. Javellana, Sr. widower 11/22 share, Elpidio Javellana Sr. widower 1/22 share, Alfredo T. Javellana widower 1/22 share, Daniel T. Javellana m/t Corazon Pacifico 1/22 share, Orenio T. Javellana m/t Erlinda Arcosa 1/22 share, Susan T. Javellana single 1/22 share, Trinidad T. Javellana single 1/22 share, Otilia T. Javellana 1/22 share, Dolores T. Javellana m/t Ernesto Uyticpo 1/22 share, Ofelia T. Javellana single 1/22 share, Sylvia T. Javellana m/t Vicente Layao 1/22 share, Elpidio T. Javellana, Jr. single 1/22 share	T-87473/1768 T-87474/8111,8064 T-87472/1535 487 1767 8052 8054 8056 T-87471/8086	28.4562 4.1691,5.1966 9.6155 17.3678 3.5662 1.4158 2.8859 5.4304 143.6955	Toyungan, Passi City
4. Calagna-an Agro-Industrial Corp.	T-71511/3-D Psd-20953(2421)	29.8493	Bito-on, Carles
	T-71518/16 Psu-99817(2426)	0.3536	Tinigban, Carles
	T-71576/11 Psu-99817(2468)	7.0320	Bito-on, Carles
	T-103908/8- Psu-99817(2434)	155.0966	Tinigban,Carles
	T-71517/14 Psu-99817(2444)	11.5652	Tinigban, Carles
Calagna-an Agro-Industrial Corp.	T-71512/4-B Psd-20953(2550)	4.1678	Bito-on, Carles
	T-103907/5-B Psd-20953(2425)	120.9948	Barangcalan, Carles
	T-71510/2-B Psd-20953(2420)	14.5861	Bito-on, Carles
	T-71513/7-B Psd-20953(2151)	2.5487	Barangcalan, Carles
	T-71509/1-F-2 Psd-20953(2448)	58.6159	Barangcalan, Carles
	T-71514/19 Psu-99817	0.2004	Barangcalan, Carles
	T-71508/1, Psu-99817	1424.0768	Barangcalan, Carles
	T-71515(2450)	10.9919	
5. Coronacion A. Alingasa	F-3507(4268-Pco-26)	14.1731	Cagay, Alimodian
6. Robustiano Sison, Sr. Trinidad Magbanua	T-20775/7640	13.9286	Agcalaga, Calinog
7. Isabel Upland Valley Agro-Ind'l. Corp., Marc Kanlaon Agri-Marine Corp. Inc., Franle Upland Grains, Inc., Marc Golden Grains, Inc.	T-127928/1201-B	124.0420	Palaclauan, Btac. Nuevo

Thank you.

Very truly yours,

(Sgd.) JUAN B. BOLANO, JR.
Provincial Agrarian Reform Officer II

May 17, 2001 -- Inquirer

2 killed in Cebu fire

CEBU CITY—Two persons were killed in a fire that destroyed 300 houses in the densely-populated Barangay Sambag Uno, Cebu City Tuesday night.

Police identified the victims as Regelio Liao, 54; and Auras Tiu, 52. They were trapped inside their houses, the police said.

The Cebu City fire department is still investigating the cause of the fire that started around 9 p.m. and lasted for more than three hours.

Fire Chief Investigator SFO2 Allan Arciaga said the cost of the damage has reached P20 million.

Arciaga said the fire started in the house of a certain Orly Alvarado.

Hundreds of displaced families were brought to the Abellana Sports Complex. *Jhunnex Napallacan, PDI Visayas Bureau*

Cop slain inside bus

BATANGAS CITY—Two men who introduced themselves as NBI agents shot dead a Western Police District policeman inside a bus in this city on Tuesday, police reported yesterday. SPO1 Francisco Untalan, 39, a member of the WPD, suffered a lone .357-caliber pistol bullet wound in his jaw which exited in his head.

He died inside a JAM passenger bus with plate no. NWW-808 at 12:30 p.m., Tuesday, said SPO3 Danilo Magtibay, city police desk officer. Police said the victim's .45 cal. service pistol was missing and was reportedly taken by one of the two suspects.

Policemen identified one of the suspects as Christopher Latayan, 37, a civilian agent of the NBI. *Mei Magsino, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Mayor's 'abduction' gimmick, says cop

By Joey Gabieta
PDI Visayas Bureau

TACLOBAN CITY—The reported abduction of Mayor Zenaida Doria of Mayorga, Leyte was just a "cheap political gimmick," according to Chief Insp. Serna Francisco, the town police chief.

"She just wants to save face as she lost (in the mayoral race). It was just (part of her) effort to save face," Francisco told the INQUIRER.

Doria (Nationalist People's Coalition) lost by a margin of 130 votes against her rival Valentine Alfonso (Lakas-NUCD), according to official results of the local Commission on Elections.

Alfonso was officially declared winner in the Mayorga mayoral race on Tuesday evening by municipal election officer Clotilde Cañete.

Doria, the INQUIRER learned, immediately filed a protest before the Comelec central office in Manila alleging that there was "massive cheating" in almost all barangays in Mayorga.

Francisco said he received a call from the mayor's husband, Anastacio, early yesterday morning informing him that Doria's abductors had released the mayor.

"According to his story, Mayor Doria was dropped off by her abductors somewhere in Abuyog at around 3 a.m. (Wednesday). When I tried to (talk to) the mayor I was just told that she cannot (talk to me on the telephone) because she was tired," he said.

Abuyog is just a few kilometers from Mayorga. Mayorga is 42.6 kilometers south of Tacloban City.

But Francisco said his investigation showed that a kidnap-for-ransom gang or the New People's Army (NPA) could not have abducted Doria.

"There's no kidnap-for-ransom gang (in Mayorga), much more NPAs. They do not exist (in the town)," he said.

Police investigators also found that it was not true that Mayor Doria ever went to Barangay Camansi, where she was allegedly abducted by armed men. Camansi is about 5 kilometers from the town proper.

It was Anastacio Doria who earlier told reporters here that his wife was abducted on Monday night by a group of armed men while she was on her way to Camansi to visit and thank her supporters.

Mayon folk ignore alert

LEGAZPI CITY—Residents near Mayon Volcano have ignored the warning of disaster officials to move out as volcanologists predicted an eruption within weeks.

Macario Nacional, a transient vendor and resident of Barangay Anoling, Camalig town, said he does not believe Mayon will erupt because animals living around the volcano have not shown signs of restiveness yet.

"I don't see anything wrong with Mayon Volcano today. We only move out of our places when wells run dry, snakes appear and there is a continuous rumbling sound accompanied by the crater glow," Nacional told the INQUIRER.

Anoling is one of the villages inside the six-kilometer permanent danger zone.

Ed Laguerta, resident volcanologist, said the dome's glow could be seen on clear days. *Rey Nasol, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Losers cry fraud in conduct of polls

CHARGES of fraud and cheating swept the counting of votes in many areas in the country.

In Northern Samar, local Lakas-NUCD candidates complained of "massive electoral fraud" following a blackout that hit eight eastern towns on Monday.

Reelectionist Northern Samar Gov. Madelaine Mendoza-Ong claimed that the opposition took advantage of the blackout to switch ballots and fabricate election returns.

As a result, she added, the opposition Liberal Party managed to sweep almost all elective positions in 14 of the 24 towns in the province.

Ong's lone opponent in the gubernatorial race is former Northern Samar Rep. Raul Daza (LP), one of ex-President Joseph Estrada's lawyers in the impeachment trial.

Emil Ong, the governor's brother—in-law, yesterday wrote to Paul Aquino, People Power Coalition (PPC) campaign manager, to claim that they unveiled massive electoral fraud following the blackout in a wide area of Northern Samar from 7:30 p.m. Monday until 8 a.m. the next day.

Blackout

The blackout occurred in the capital town of Catarman and the adjacent municipalities of Bobon, San Jose, Rosario, Lavizares, Allen, Victoria and San Isidro.

Emil Ong, PPC-Lakas-NUCD coordinator in the province, said the fraud occurred in many part of Northern Samar that resulted in a 0-13 sweep in favor of the Puwersa ng Masa senatorial candidates.

The electoral fraud, he claimed, also prejudiced their local candidates.

Emil Ong said they were able to gather pieces of evidence to prove massive fraud such as blank election returns that were duly signed by the Board of Election Inspectors and poll watchers.

Attached in his letter was a blank election return for precinct No. 47-A in Barangay Nenita, Mondragon town, which was signed by Monina Jaudian, BEI chair, and Josephine Coronado, election clerk.

Ong, former presidential adviser for Eastern Visayas during the term of then President Estrada, also said they had people who were willing to execute affidavits that they saw ballot switching allegedly committed by the opposition Liberal Party.

Failure of elections

In Bacolod City, Gov. Rafael Coscolluela asked the Commission on Elections to declare a failure of election for board members in the third district after the poll body failed to include the name of Salvador Segovia in the list of candidates posted in the precincts during election day.

He said the exclusion of Segovia's name in the list should not be written off as an "honest mistake" because it cost him some votes.

"This is gross negligence on the part of Comelec," Coscolluela said. "It only shows that Comelec, from the start, was biased."

Coscolluela and Segovia belong to the local party Atun an affiliate of the PPC.

In Northern Luzon areas, losers in the May 14 elections have started filing election protests, alleging massive fraud and various election irregularities.

Supporters of losing candidates in Ilocos Norte and Nueva Ecija have picketed Comelec offices and town halls to denounce the irregularities.

Pangasinan

In Pangasinan, reelectionist Rep. Ranjit Shahani of the sixth district filed a petition for the disqualification of his rival, former Rep. Conrado Estrella III, for alleged vote-buying.

Shahani was trailing Estrella in the latest unofficial count by the National Movement for Free Elections.

In his complaint, Shahani cited an incident on May 9 where police arrested three Estrella supporters who were allegedly buying votes.

Electoral protests have temporarily stopped the counting in the towns of San Manuel, Tayug and Natividad.

In Tayug, Mayor Marius Ladio asked Comelec to stop the canvassing of votes due to alleged massive fraud by his rival, former Mayor Guerrero Zaragoza.

Ladio, based on partial and unofficial count, was losing to Zaragoza by 17 votes.

He complained that in some precincts, the poll watchers asked the voters who supported him to sign at the back of the ballots. "These were then declared marked ballots," he said.

In San Manuel, Vice Mayor Cristobal Suller also complained that relatives of former Mayor Salvador Perez, his opponent for mayor, accompanied voters to the precincts.

Reports said a gunfight also ensued between the camp of Zaragoza and Suller on Tuesday night. The two candidates' houses were near each other.

In Natividad, supporters of mayoral candidate Janet Zaragoza staged a rally at the municipal hall after she accused her rival, Vice Mayor Alejandra Supnet, of election irregularities. Janet is the daughter of former Tayug Mayor Zaragoza.

In La Union, two defeated mayoral candidates said they would file election protests against their rivals, claiming the polls were marred by ballot tampering and vote-buying.

Pampanga

In Pampanga, the Commission on Elections ordered on Tuesday night the immediate transfer to Camp Olivas of ballot boxes and election returns in Sto. Tomas town after reelectionist Mayor Romeo Ronquillo allegedly disrupted the canvassing of votes at the municipal hall.

Chief Supt. Enrique Galang, Central Luzon police director, said the incident started Tuesday morning when Ronquillo barged into the canvassing area to allegedly try to stop the canvassing. Election officials earlier denied Ronquillo's request to defer the canvassing.

"The incumbent mayor filed a motion to the Comelec to defer the canvassing but it was denied. Tension occurred after he himself reportedly tried to stop the canvassing, prompting the Board of Election Inspectors to request for additional troops because of

LOSERS/p.14

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Mindanao will experience partly cloudy to cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will be partly cloudy to at times cloudy with isolated rainshowers or thunderstorms mostly in the afternoon or evening.

SOURCE: PAGASA

Metro Manila Hi 35° Lo 25°	**Baguio** Hi 26° Lo 17°	**Tuguegarao** Hi 34° Lo 23°	**Laoag** Hi 33° Lo 24°
Clark Zone Hi 34° Lo 24°	**Tagaytay** Hi 33° Lo 23°	**Legazpi** Hi 34° Lo 26°	**Calapan** Hi 34° Lo 24°
Bacolod Hi 32° Lo 25°	**Roxas** Hi 33° Lo 26°	**Cebu** Hi 32° Lo 25°	**Tacloban** Hi 33° Lo 26°
Gen. Santos Hi 32° Lo 24°	**Zamboanga** Hi 32° Lo 25°	**Cagayan de Oro** Hi 32° Lo 23°	**Davao** Hi 31° Lo 24°

Compiled by: Ray Leyesa PDI Research

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DEPRESSION ?
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IN METRO MANILA

Fourth National Higher Education Congress

Manila Midtown Hotel May 17 - 18, 2001

Theme: Higher Education in the Knowledge-based Economy

Messages

It is with great pride and pleasure that I convey my warmest felicitations to the organizers of and participants to the Fourth National Higher Education Congress.

Let me commend the Commission on Higher Education (CHED), Congress of the Philippines, Coordinating Council of Private Education Associations (COCOPEA), and the Philippine Association of State Universities and Colleges (PASUC) for organizing this very significant event. This congress with the theme, *"Higher Education in the Knowledge-Based Economy,"* promises to address the need to adopt new educational techniques and innovations to make higher education more relevant and effective in today's knowledge-based economy.

Our country's sustainable development in today's era of global integration and unhampered information exchange depend on the ability of our people to adapt and harness the benefits of the latest technological advances. Higher education plays a vital role in equipping both students and education practitioners with the necessary skills to cope with these advances and meet the challenges presented by today's global community. I hope I can count on the continued dedication of the participants and organizers of this congress to uplift the level of higher education in our country and provide the needed boost to expedite our efforts to attain more sustainable development.

I call on the participants of this congress to continue being active partners of our government in working for the advancement of higher education in the country. I enjoin everyone in the higher education sector to continue contributing to our efforts in realizing our objectives of poverty alleviation, global competitiveness and sustainable development, for the benefit of present and future generations of Filipinos.

MABUHAY!

GMArroyo
GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO
President, Republic of the Philippines

Greetings!

I convey my warmest felicitations to the Commission on Higher Education which will be holding the 4th National Higher Education Congress on May 17-18 at the Manila Midtown Hotel in cooperation with the Congress of the Philippines, Coordinating Council of Private Education Associations (COCOPEA) and the Philippines Association of State Universities and Colleges (PASUC)

The dawn of the twenty-first century saw the onslaught of the information technology revolution and globalization. These twin forces redefined every aspect of human life in ways that have never been seen before. Consequently, they resulted in a borderless economy and enjoined governments to create opportunities for their citizens to ensure their full participation under a globalized environment.

As such, I am happy to note that the theme of this gathering, *"Higher Education in the Knowledge-Base Economy,"* is in pursuit of making our learning institutions relevant to the changing times. In fact, the participants of the congress who are mostly educators are at the heart of these transformations. Hence, I urge you all to make the most of this unique assembly and meeting of the minds of the country's top mentors.

Warmest regards!

AQUILINO Q. PIMENTEL, JR.
Senate President

As countries prepare for the knowledge-based 21st century, the issue of higher education systems reform attracts greater attention. Deepening globalization has made such reform imperative, as economic performance in the borderless era becomes increasingly hinged on the quality of a country's human resource.

Such reform must take into account the dizzying changes in our midst. Science and technology in the modern world will redefine the limits of space and time, and in the process, revolutionalize the way we communicate, interact, and live. These changes will not only bring people closer; it will also hasten the transfer of knowledge and technology among peoples and communities.

In this context, higher education systems should themselves become linked and globalized. Thus, as in most human endeavors, reform initiatives in this sector will require the establishment of even stronger, closer and cohesive ties among higher education institutions and governments. Only through such coordinated efforts can a meaningful reform program that takes account of the nuances of the present social transformation be formulated and implemented.

May this Fourth National Higher Education Congress consolidate the linkages between our academic and legislative communities, and may such partnership engender a reform initiative that will serve as the country's foothold in its march to progress.

Congratulations to the men and women who made this Congress possible and *Mabuhay po tayong lahat!*

FELICIANO BELMONTE JR.
Speaker, House of Representatives

PROGRAM OF ACTIVITIES

Morning		
7:30	Registration	
8:00	Opening of Congress Exhibits	
8:30	PREPARATORY SESSION	
	Doxology	**De La Salle University Chorale**
	National Anthem	**De La Salle University Chorale**
	Seven Years of CHED	**Hon. Ester Albano Garcia** *Chairperson, CHED*
	The Status and Direction of ICT in Philippine Tertiary Education	**Hon. Manuel D. Punzal** *Commissioner, CHED*
	Open Forum	**Dr. Camar A. Umpa** President, Mindanao State University · *Moderator*
10:00	COFFEE BREAK	
	PLENARY SESSION 1	
10:30	Legislative Updates on Higher Education	**Hon. Feliciano Belmonte Jr.** Speaker, House of Representatives
	Knowledge-Based Economy: A Macro Perspective	**Hon. Estrella F. Alabastro** Secretary, Department of Science and Technology
	Preparing Teachers for the Knowledge-Based Economy	**Hon. Raul S. Roco** *Secretary, Dept. of Education Culture and Sports* *Chair, CHED Board of Advisors*
	Open Forum	**Dr. Ruperto S. Sangalang** *President, Cavite State University · Moderator*
Afternoon		
12:30	OPENING CEREMONY	
	Statement of Purpose	**Hon. Mona Dumlao Valisno** *Chair, National Congress, Commissioner, CHED*
	Introduction of the Guest of Honor and Keynote Speaker	**Hon. Ester Albano Garcia** *Chairperson, CHED*
	KEYNOTE ADDRESS	Her Excellency **GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO** *President of the Philippines*
1:30	LUNCH	
	PLENARY SESSION II	
2:30-3:30	Technical Presentation	**Mr. Glen de Guzman** Product Specialist, GAKKEN Philippines, Inc. **Mr. Ronald V. Vilchez** Sales Supervisor, GAKKEN Philippines, Inc.
3:30-4:30	Video Presentation	**Ms. Amie Cuelo** Systems Consultant, GAKKEN Philippines, Inc.
4:30-6:00	Cultural Presentation	**Philippine Normal University**
	Emcee (A.M.)	**Dr. Victor C. Manabat** *Dean, College of Business, St. Michael College, Laguna*
	Emcee (P.M.)	**Ms. Ramonita Palo** *Head, Marketing Department, Centro Escolar Univ.* **Mr. Christopher J. Curtado** *Faculty, Centro Escolar University*
	Officer of the Day	**Atty. Julito D. Vitriolo** *Director IV, CHED*
Morning		
7:30	Registration	
8:00	PLENARY SESSION III	
	The Knowledge-Based Economy: An Industry Perspective	**Mr. Ritchie Lozada** *E-Commerce Director, Microsoft Philippines*
	Open Forum	**Dr. Henry A. Sojor** President, Central Visayas Polytechnic Colleges; Moderator
9:00	CONCURRENT SESSIONS AND WORKSHOPS	
	Topic 1: College Bridging Program: A Curriculum Innovation	**Dr. Paulino Y. Tan** *President, Asia Pacific College*: Resource Speaker
	Convenor:	**Ms. Leonida T. Africa** *President, East Asia Computer College*
	Topic 2: Managing Challenges and Constraints in ICT Education	**Dr. Felix Librero** *Chancellor UP-OU* **Dr. Reynaldo B. Vea** *President, Mapua Institute of Technology* Resource Speakers
	Convenor	**Dr. Ofelia M. Carague** *President, Polytechnic University of the Philippines*
	Topic 3: The Human Moment in Information and Communication Resource Speaker	**Bro. Dr. Rolando R. Dizon, FSC** *President, De La Salle University*
	Convenor:	**Atty. Jose D. Baltazar** *President, Jose Rizal University*
	Topic 4: Transformational Leadership in the Context of Knowledge-Based Economy	**Fr. Roderick C. Salazar, SVD** *Vice-President, Academic Affairs, Univ. of San Carlos* *Resource Speaker*
	Convenor:	**Dr. Alicia S. Bustos** *President, Baliuag Colleges*
	Topic 5: The Workforce and Work-Style in the Global Market	**Mr. Guillermo Luz** *Executive Director, Makati Business Club* *Resource Speaker*
	Convenor	**Fr. Dr. Bienvenido F. Nebres, SJ** *President, Ateneo de Manila University*
11:30	Technical Presentation (for participants) 10 Exhibitors	
	HEI Presidents' Forum with CHED and Other Agencies	**Hon. Ester Albano Garcia** *Presiding*
Afternoon		
12:30	LUNCHEON	**Polytechnic University of the Philippines**
	Intermission	**Banda Kawayan**
1:30-2:00	Video Presentation	**Microsoft, Philippines**
2:00-2:30	Presentation of Long and Medium-Term Higher Education Development Plan	**Hon. Hadja Roqaiya VR. Maglangit** *Commissioner, CHED*
3:00	Presentation of Workshop Group Reports	**Dr. Cresencia Chan-Gonzaga** *President, Leyte Normal University*: Moderator
	Emcee (A.M.)	**Dr. Pacencia C. Milan** *President, Visayas State College of Agriculture*
	Emcee (P.M.)	**Dr. Jose Sal. Tan** *President, Cebu State College of Science and Technology*
4:30	CLOSING CEREMONIES	
	Synthesis	**Hon. Roberto N. Padua** *Commissioner, CHED*
	Musical Presentation	**University of Santo Tomas Singers**
	Closing Remarks	**Hon. Mona Dumlao Valisno** *Commissioner, CHED*
	Emcee	**Sr. Mercedes Salud** *President, St. Joseph College, Q.C.*
	Officer of the Day	**Dr. Reynaldo T. Puña** *Director IV, CHED*

Messages

Our warmest greetings to all the participants, sponsors and exhibitors of the 4th National Congress on Higher Education on May 17-18, 2001 at the Manila Midtown Hotel.

Also, we would like to extend our heartfelt gratitude to the Congress of the Philippines, the Coordinating Council of Private Education Association (COCOPEA) and the Philippine Association of State Universities and Colleges (PASUC) for their valuable support and cooperation.

The congress theme "Higher Education in the Knowledge-based Economy" underscores our acknowledgment of the crucial role education, training and research have to play in sustaining our nation's economic growth.

At present, the industry is in need of highly skilled human resources to work in the dynamic environment of a knowledge-based economy. The Commission on Higher Education sees the importance of linkage and collaboration between the industry and academe to address this need.

In responding to the call for lifelong learning of the human resource base, the academe can benefit from being exposed to the advanced and innovative environment of industries. On the other hand, the industry can save much in the training of their workers by having the academe as partners in this endeavor.

Higher education needs to meet challenges as well as take advantage of opportunities brought about by the knowledge-based economy. It is my hope that through this congress, the academe will be able to respond to local and global developments thus becoming an effective partner of industry.

MABUHAY!

ESTER A. GARCIA
Chairperson, Commission on Higher Education

The Commission on Higher Education celebrates the 4th National Higher Education Congress on May 17-18, 2001 with the theme "Higher Education in the Knowledge-based Economy." This endeavor has been a fruitful realization with the cooperation of the House of the Representatives, the Coordinating Council of Private Education Associations (COCOPEA), and the Philippine Association of State Universities and Colleges (PASUC). Thus, my warmest congratulations to each one for the success of this momentous occasion.

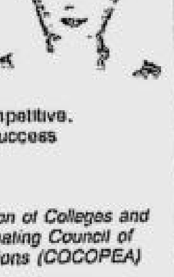
Economies are increasingly based on knowledge and information. Knowledge is now recognized as the driver of productivity and economic growth. As a result, there is a new focus on the role of information, technology and learning in economic performance. The growing codification of knowledge and its transmission through communications and computer networks has led to the emerging *"information society."* The need for workers to acquire a range of skills and to continuously adapt these skills underlies the *"learning economy."* Yet in the midst of all this technology, information and potential access, the country is faced with the challenge of producing highly competitive graduates.

In attaining full economic growth, the Macapagal-Arroyo administration has identified information and communications technology (ICT) as the principal sector for economic growth. Thus along with the CHED, the whole of the higher education sector should put together all efforts to ensure that the country moves toward to being one with a Knowledge-based Economy.

The importance of knowledge and technology diffusion requires better understanding of knowledge networks and "national innovations systems." Most importantly, new issues and questions are being raised regarding the implications of the knowledge-based economy for employment and the role of governments in the development and maintenance of the knowledge base. It is our hope that the higher education sector continues to face the challenges of the New Economy in a much optimistic perspective.

Mabuhay!

Mona D. Valisno
MONA D. VALISNO
Commissioner, CHED
and Chairman, 4th National Higher Education Congress



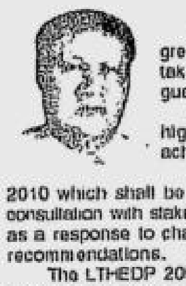
I wish to convey my warmest greetings to all the representatives of private and public higher education institutions to the 4th National Higher Education Congress.

The convergence of delegates from COCOPEA and PASUC affiliates and officials from the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) to tackle the theme "Higher Education in the Knowledge-based Economy" is a window of opportunity.

We all have to accept the challenge of the new workforce shift to service and knowledge workers. It is imperative for us to discuss global and local developments and their implications so we can be effective and competitive.

Being a collaborative effort, the congress, I am confident, will be a success.

MARIA L. ASUFAO
President, Philippine Association of Colleges and Universities (PACU), Coordinating Council of Private Educational Associations (COCOPEA)



As one of the co-sponsors of the 4th National Higher Education Congress, the Philippine Association of State Universities and Colleges (PASUC) takes pleasure in extending warm greetings of peace and solidarity to all guests, participants and friends of higher education in the country.

This Higher Education Congress is a milestone as it endeavors to highlight global and local development that have serious implications in achieving quality and excellence in higher education.

The Long-Term Higher Education Development Plan (LTHEDP) 2001-2010 which shall be presented during the Congress is the product of almost two years of consultation with stakeholders nationwide, both in the public and private sectors. It was prepared as a response to challenges of the millennium plan framework and the PCER's findings and recommendations.

The LTHEDP 2001-2010, once adopted in this Congress, will serve as a spring board and guide to meaningful institutional planning and implementation in the years ahead.

MABUHAY!

FELICIANO S. ROSETE
President, Philippine Association of State Universities and Colleges

Chavit candidates suffer upsets in Ilocos Sur

VIGAN CITY—While relatives of outgoing Ilocos Sur Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson appeared to be heading for victories in Monday's elections, many of Singson's local candidates under his Bileg party, five of them reelectionist mayors, suffered setbacks.

In Nueva Ecija, candidates of the Josons' Balane party appeared headed to capture the major seats in 20 towns in the province.

The Commission on Elections has already proclaimed winning candidates in some towns in Northern and Central Luzon on Tuesday and Wednesday.

Ilocos Sur

The much-vaunted political machinery and influence of Singson through Bileg was not enough to push at least 13 mayoral bets, including five incumbent mayors, to victory on Monday, unofficial and complete election tallies from the National Movement for Free Elections showed.

The five losing reelectionist mayors were Manuel Querubin of Caoayan, Eugenio Rabar of Sta. Catalina, Alfred Figueras of Sto. Domingo, Ramon Balbin of Candon City and Roy Luna of Suyo.

Bileg mayoral aspirants also lost in the towns of Narvacan, Burgos, Banayoyo, San Emilio and Salcedo.

Bileg mayoral candidate Roque Versoza is also trailing behind Mayor Jose Bunoan in Tagudin town.

Singson attributed the poll losses of his bets to his failure to campaign in these towns.

Some Bileg bets, however, posted upset wins in the province. Deocesar Suero, a mayoral bet in Cabugao town, defeated former Mayor Andrea Soller-Tan, ending the latter's family's reign of more than 10 years.

Nueva Ecija

In Nueva Ecija, reelectionist Gov. Tomas Joson III, the titular head of the homegrown political party Bagong Lakas ng Nueva Ecija (Balane), is well ahead of his rival, Rep. Pacifico Fajardo, a relative of President Macapagal-Arroyo.

Joson's running mate and brother, Eduardo Joson IV, is also winning.

But the governor's eldest son, Edward Thomas, 25, appeared to have lost by a big margin to political neophyte, Aurelio Umali, in the congressional race in the third district.

In the congressional race in the second district, reelectionist Rep. Simeon Garcia of Balane appeared losing to former Rep. Eleuterio Violago.

Joson's brother Mariano Cristino was reelected mayor of Quezon City, winning over a token candidate. His sister-in-law, Josefina Manuel-Joson, wife of Mariano Cristino, won over Cecilia del Pilar-Diaz, wife of Renato Diaz, former congressman and now presidential assistant for development for North Luzon.

In the fourth district, Raul Villareal, husband of incumbent Rep. Julita Villareal, was leading his rivals.

Balane mayoral candidates appeared to have won in 18 towns and two cities in Nueva Ecija, unofficial tallies showed.

Isabela

The Comelec has proclaimed outgoing Isabela Rep. Faustino Dy Jr. as Isabela governor and Santiago Respicio as vice governor. Both Dy and Respicio ran unopposed.

Also proclaimed were the winning mayoral bets in 12 towns in Isabela. They were Leonardo Tumamao (San Isidro), Eduardo Juan (Quirino), Virgilio Padilla (San Agustin), Romeo Pulig (San Guillermo), Panchito Pua (Luna), Mila Albano-Mamauag (Cabagan), Miriam Masigan-Martinez (Sta. Maria), Antonio Talauc (Sto. Tomas), Tomas Pua Jr. (Delfin Albano), William Uy (Aurora), Natividad Bernardo (Palanan) and Evelyn Alabon (Burgos).

The proclamation of reelectionist San Manuel Mayor Jaime Domingo was deferred due to complaints filed by the lawyer of losing mayoral bet Jun Sermonia.

In the congressional race, former House Majority Floor leader Rodolfo Albano Jr. was leading Aurora de Alban in the first district, according to unofficial Namfrel tally.

Vice Gov. Edwin Uy was leading Board Member Simplicio Domingo II in the second district congressional race while Cauayan City Mayor Faustino Dy III was ahead of independent candidate Grace Cielo Padaca in the third district.

Former Rep. Antonio Abaya was leading lawyer Giorgidi Aggabao in the fourth district.

Cagayan

Reelectionist Rep. Juan Ponce "Jackie" Enrile Jr. was leading Victor Padilla in the first district while former Cagayan Gov. Melvin Vargas was leading Alejandro Pulido in the second district, according to the Namfrel tally.

In the congressional race in the third district, former Rep. Manuel Mamba appeared to be pulling an upset over reelectionist Rep. Rodolfo Aguinaldo.

Mamba garnered 51,472 votes as against Aguinaldo's 39,954 votes, according to unofficial tallies.

In the gubernatorial race, former Rep. Edgar Lara was leading reelectionist Gov. Florencio Vargas (73,962).

Ilocos Norte

The Marcoses' Kilusang Bagong Lipunan candidates appeared to have pulled upset victories in most towns. Except for San Nicolas and Batac towns, other mayoral candidates under the KBL slate are posting strong showings against their rivals.

Based on Namfrel's quick count, Fortuna Marcos-Barba, the only surviving sister of the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos, registered a poor showing in the mayoral race in San Nicolas.

Latest Namfrel count showed Barba was trailing behind Manuel Hernando, the town's former vice mayor. However, Barba's son Angelo, the town's former mayor, appeared assured of a seat at the provincial board.

In Batac, the Marcoses' hometown, comebacking mayor Jesus Nalupta Sr. appeared headed for an upset win against his sister-in-law and reelectionist Mayor Elena Nalupta, wife of disqualified vice gubernatorial candidate Mariano Nalupta Jr.

Based on unofficial and complete returns, Jesus Nalupta garnered 9,650 votes against Elena Nalupta's 7,731.

The Comelec has proclaimed Rosario Go, wife of the late Mayor Ernesto Go, as winner in the mayoral race in Currimao town.

Tarlac

In the congressional race, two scions of the powerful Cojuangco family are runaway leaders, based on Namfrel count as of 9:30 a.m. Wednesday.

Rep. Gilbert Teodoro (first district), a nephew of Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco Jr., and Rep. Benigno "Noynoy" Aquino III (second district) were ahead of their respective rivals.

In the gubernatorial race, it was a close fight among Tarlac City Mayor Gelacio Manalang, incumbent Gov Jose Yap and Vice Gov. Herminio Aquino

Pampanga, Zambales

As of Wednesday morning, Namfrel's count has covered two cities and 15 towns in Pampanga.

Reelectionist Gov Manuel Lapid and vice gubernatorial candidate Juan Miguel Arroyo, President Macapagal-Arroyo's son, firmed up their leads Lapid garnered 174,988 votes or 89 per cent of total votes cast for governor.

Artemio Lambino, Pampanga election supervisor, said the municipal election officials have proclaimed since Tuesday night six mayoral bets.

They are reelectionist Mayors Pastor Guiao of Magalang, Exequiel Gamboa of Porac and Catalina Bagasina of Sasmuan, Buddy Dungca of Bacolor, Edgar Flores of Minalin and Lucas Arceo of Sto. Tomas.

In Angeles City, mayoral aspirant Robin Nepomuceno conceded defeat to reelectionist Mayor Carmelo Lazatin.

In Olongapo City, reelectionist Mayor Katherine Gordon was proclaimed winner after garnering 68 per cent of the votes cast for mayor in Monday's elections. Her brother-in-law, reelectionist Rep. James Gordon Jr., was leading the congressional race in the first district

In the second district, former Executive Secretary Ruben Torres was leading former Gov. Amor Deloso while reelectionist Gov. Vicente Magsaysay was leading in the gubernatorial race.

Bulacan, Bataan

In Bulacan, the Comelec proclaimed five winning mayoral candidates on Wednesday. They were Carlito Reyes (Bustos), Reynaldo Castro (Balagtas), Oliver Andres (Pandi), Ambrocio Cruz (Guiguinto), and Nesty Joaquin (Obando).

The victory of Reyes in Bustos ended the 20-year rule of the family of reelectionist Mayor Arnel Mendoza.

In the gubernatorial race, Gov. Josefina de la Cruz was reelected following the disqualification of her rival, Luz Viado.

Reelectionist Rep. Wilhelmino Sy-Alvarado of the first district was leading former Board Member Raul Ople, son of Sen. Blas Ople.

In the second district, former Vice Gov. Wilfrido Villarama was leading Gavini Pancho, son of outgoing Rep. Pedro Pancho.

Former San Rafael Mayor Lorna Silverio was leading former Rep. Jose Cabochan and former Mayor Jesus Viceo in the third district. Silverio's husband, outgoing Rep. Ricardo Silverio, was losing to former Mayor Jaime Viceo in the mayoral race of San Rafael.

In the fourth district, Sta. Maria Mayor Reylina Nicolas was leading Evangelina Sarmiento, wife of former Rep. Angelito Sarmiento.

In Bataan, reelectionist Rep. Antonino Roman Jr. won over radio reporter Rod Izon in the first district.

Reelectionist Rep. Enrique Garcia Jr. of the second district and reelectionist Gov. Leonardo Roman were assured of victory as they both ran unopposed

Pangasinan, Benguet

Former Speaker Jose de Venecia Jr. appeared headed to retake Pangasinan's fourth district seat after the unofficial Namfrel tally showed he cornered 95 percent of the votes in his district.

Outgoing fourth district Rep. Benjamin Lim was leading in the mayoral race in Dagupan City.

In the fifth district, businessman Marcos "Mark" Cojuangco, a son of former Ambassador Eduardo Cojuangco Jr., was reportedly leading by 90,000 votes his rival Raul Lambino.

In the third district, reelectionist Rep Generoso Tulagan won in unofficial counts over Board Members Angel Baniqued and MacArthur Samson.

Lingayen Mayor Ernesto Castañeda is winning in the congressional race in the second district while his wife Josefina is ahead of her rivals for Lingayen mayor.

Reelectionist Gov Victor Agbayani was leading in the gubernatorial race while his brother Luis Agbayani was reportedly winning as Sual mayor.

The Celestes of western Pangasinan were also leading the local races. Bolinao Mayor Jesus Celeste appeared headed for a third term while his younger brother Arthur Celeste, a former board member, was winning in the congressional race in the first district.

Anda Mayor Alice Pulido ran unopposed for her third term while her husband Nestor was likely to take a seat in the provincial board.

In Benguet, only reelectionist Mayor Jose Baluda of Tuba town was proclaimed by the Comelec at press time. Canvassing of votes was proceeding slowly in the province, reports said.

Nueva Vizcaya

Rep. Carlos Padilla and Gov. Rodolfo Agbayani, both reelectionists, maintained their wide leads against their respective rivals.

Eight mayoral candidates in 15 towns of the province were proclaimed by the Comelec on Tuesday. They were Romulo Galutera (Dupax del Sur), Marvic Padilla (Diadi) Nuepe Manuel (Ambaguio), Alfredo Castillo Jr. (Alfonso Castañeda), Donior Tidang (Sta. Fe), Tuazon Martinez (Kayapa), Benjamin Dulay (Quezon) and Severino Dacumos Jr. (Villaverde).

In Quirino, returning Rep. Junie Cua and reelectionist Gov. Pedro Bacani continued to dominate the congressional and gubernatorial races, respectively.

Cua's son Dakila was also leading in the vice gubernatorial race.

In Mindoro, 11 of 12 reelectionist mayors in Oriental Mindoro have kept their seats, unofficial election returns indicated.

In Calapan City, Mayor Arnan Panaligan established a record by winning in all precincts in all 62 barangays here.

In Occidental Mindoro, Gov. Josephine Sato is leading Amelita Villarosa in the race for the province's lone congressional seat.

In the gubernatorial race, it is still a close fight between former Rep. Jose Villarosa and Rep. Ding Quintos.

In Cebu, the winds of change are blowing in the second congressional district.

After 30 years in power, the Abines family finally tasted defeat after two scions of the clan lost in the mayoral race in the adjoining towns of Santander and Samboan.

Incumbent Santander Mayor James Arnold Abines (Promdi) lost in his reelection bid to his brother-in-law, Wilson Wenceslao (Alayon) by 439 votes

James' younger brother John Carl was defeated by lawyer Peter John Calderon, son of Cocofed party-list Rep. Emerito Calderon, by a mere 58 votes in the mayoral race in Samboan.

Arnold and John Carl are sons of incumbent Samboan Mayor Crisologo Abines (Promdi), who is seeking to reclaim the second district from incumbent Rep. Simeon Kintanar (Alayon).

Crisologo was congressman of the district for three terms from 1989 to 1998. He ran for Samboan mayor in 1998 as the law prohibits a fourth term.

Crisologo is himself trailing behind Kintanar based on partial, unofficial results of the "quick count" by the Church-based C-Cimpel. As of 12:16 p.m. yesterday, Kintanar had 1,702 votes and Crisologo 1,660. *Reports from Cristina Arzadon, Leoncio Balbin, Frank Cimatu, Villamor Visaya Jr., Estanislao Caldez, Nathan Alcantara, Yolanda Fuertes and Desiree Caluza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau, and Anselmo Roque, Tonette Orejas, Russell Arador, Carmela Reyes, Jun Malig, Cesar Villa, Greg Refraccion and Ansbert Joaquin, PDI Central Luzon Desk; Joel Jabal, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau and Nagiel Banacia and Edra Benedicto, PDI Visayas Bureau*

SINGSON wearing a campaign pin of one of his losing candidates as he meets with old buddy Juning Ordonio. TOOTS SOBERANO

Losers . . . (From page 13)

the tension there," Galang said.

Galang also relieved Chief Insp. Narvin Mangune, police director of Sto. Tomas for his failure to contain the tension in the town.

In Nueva Ecija, Comelec officials stopped the counting and canvassing of votes in San Isidro town after followers of former Mayor Nestor Magno staged a protest rally at the Comelec office there on Wednesday.

This came after Magno was ordered disqualified by the Comelec based on a petition of a San Isidro resident that the former mayor was sentenced by the Sandiganbayan for direct bribery.

The petition said although Magno served his probation, he was not qualified yet to run for public office until 2003.

Ilocos Sur

In Ilocos Sur, 200 residents of Tagudin town stormed the municipal auditorium Tuesday and berated the parish priest there for allegedly taking some of the ballot boxes without the election watchers

In Isabela, police are investigating reports of a ballot box snatching incident in Barangay Ramos in Alicia town.

Members of the board of election inspectors in the town, however, recovered the ballot box at the back of the elementary school after a bonnet-wearing man took it.

In Cagayan, policemen recovered three of four ballot boxes snatched from a precinct in Barangay Casambalangan in Sta. Ana town. The ballots were reportedly intact

In Solsona town, 200 supporters of mayoral candidate Antonio Gallegos staged a rally at the town hall to denounce alleged massive cheating in favor of reelectionist Mayor Bertha de Lara

Cynthia Borgueta and Carla Gomez, PDI Visayas Bureau and Yolanda Fuertes, Frank Cimatu, Leoncio Balbin Jr., Villamor Visaya Jr., Peter La. Julian, Cristina Arzadon and Kira Espino, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

PROVINCIAL TABULATION OF ELECTION RESULTS

CORDILLERA ADMINISTRATIVE REGION	
(Namfrel: As of 6 p.m., May 16)	
ABRA	
(Namfrel: 658 precincts)	
Lone District:	
Luis Bersamin Jr. (PDSP)	10,127
Rodolfo Millare (Lakas-NUCD)	3,984
Governor:	
Ernesto Pacuño (Lakas-NUCD)	5,033
Vicente Valera (PDSP-PPC)	9,890
APAYAO	
Lone District	
Elias Bulut Jr. (NPC)	1,537
Bambina Noble (Lakas-NUCD)	2,334
Governor:	
Robert Angco (Lakas-NUCD)	27
Elias Bulut Sr. NPC)	2,958
Ambaro Sagle (Reporma-LM)	910
BENGUET	
(Namfrel: 673 of 808 precincts)	
Lone District:	
Ronald Cosalan (Lakas-NUCD)	46,233
Samuel Dangwa (Reporma)	50,817
Governor:	
Bedis Guznian (Reporma-LM)	167
Raul Molintas (NPC)	53,837
Robert Tinda-an (Lakas-NUCD)	45,112
BAGUIO CITY	
(Namfrel: 238 of 624 precincts)	
Lone District:	
Mauricio Domogan (Lakas)	13,175
Pablito Sanidad (PDP-Lakas)	6,167
IFUGAO	
(Namfrel: Precincts from 9 towns)	
Lone District:	
Evangeline Cappleman (NPC)*	3,052
Solomon Chungalao (LP)	5,175
Ildefonso Dulinayan (LDP)	3,594
Governor:	
(Comelec as of May 16)	
Teodoro Baguilat Jr.	21,024
Gualberto Lumauig (Lakas)	11,444
CAGAYAN VALLEY	
CAGAYAN	
District 3:	
(Namfrel: 10 a.m. May 16)	
Rodolfo Aguinaldo (NPC)	39,954
Manuel Mamba (Lakas-NUCD)	51,472
ILOCOS REGION	
ILOCOS NORTE	
District 1:	
(Namfrel: 266 precincts)	
Rodolfo Fariñas (NPC)	8,362
Roque Ablan Jr. (Lakas-NUCD)	14,115
District 2:	
Namfrel: 266 precincts)	
Imee Marcos (KBL)	41,965
Governor:	
(Namfrel: 266 precincts)	
Ferdinand Marcos Jr. (KBL)	72,699
ILOCOS SUR	
District 1.	
(Namfrel)	
Salacnib Baterina (Lakas-NUCD)	33,019
Mariano Tajon (Lakas-NUCD)	28,066
District 2.	
(Namfrel)	
Eric Singson (Liberal Party)	37,136
Virgilio Valle (LAKAS-NUCD)	26,606
Governor:	
(Namfrel: 1,234 of 1,666 precincts)	
Elren Ratanan Sr.	55,393
Deogracias Victor (Bileg-Lakas)	65,052
Roque Sison (Independent)	612
Benjamin Baterina (P. D.)	14,893
LA UNION	
District 1.	
(Comelec: As of 6:30 p.m.)	
Manuel Ortega (NPC)	18,555
Michael Magsaysay (LDP)	14,895
District 2:	
(Comelec: 21 precincts)	
Tomas Dumpit (NPC)	2,043
Rolando Rivera (Lakas-NUCD)	468
Dioscorro Yoro Jr. (Liberal Party)	37
Governor:	
(Comelec: 337 precincts)	
Victor Ortega (Lakas-NUCD)	25,232
Tomas Dumpit Jr. (LDP)	19,660
PANGASINAN	
District 1:	
(Comelec: As of 7 p.m.)	
Francisco Baraan (Laks-NUCD)	9,158
Arthur Celeste (Independent)	3,637
Vicente Millora (NPC)	4,345
District 2:	
Ernesto Castañeda (Lakas-NUCD)	4,784
Amado Espino Jr.(Lakas-NUCD)	6,373
Von Mark Mendoza (Aksyon)	6,613
District 5:	
Marcos Cojuangco (NPC)	11,796
Samuel Gabot (Independent)	25
Raul Lambino (PDP-Laban)	1,689
District 6:	
Conrado Estrella III (NPC)	5,933
Ranjit Shahani (Lakas-NUCD)	3,259
Governor:	
(Comelec: 7 towns)	
Victor Agbayani (Lakas-NUCD)	46,335
Teodoro Cruz (LDP)	18,836
CENTRAL LUZON	
PAMPANGA	
(Namfrel: 2,812 of 5,021 precincts)	
District 1:	
Francis Nepomuceno (NPC)	50,715
Willy Rivera (Lakas-NUCD)	32,227
District 2:	
Zenaida Cruz-Ducut (NPC)	62,975
Emigdio Lingad (Lakas-NUCD)	38,227
District 3:	
Oscar Rodriguez (Lakas-NUCD)	69,469
Rosve Henson (NPC)	31,917
District 4:	
Juan Pablo Bondoc (NPC)	63,177
ZAMBALES	
OLONGAPO CITY	
(Comelec: 605 of 609 precincts)	
Katherine Gordon (Lakas-NP-PPC)	42,358
Edgar Caniza (LDP)	17,897
BICOL	
Sorsogon	
(Namfrel: As of 5 p.m., May 16)	
Governor:	
Delos Reyes, Romeo (Reporma)	4,813
Guab, Romeo C. (Lakas-NUCD)	47,101
Holazo, Rafael F. (Independent)	2,173
Lee, Raul R. (LDP)	101,117
First District:	
Escudero, Francis (NPC)	39,139
Gohol, Gil S.(Lakas-NUCD)	13,335
Second District:	
Gonzales, Rodolfo F.(Lakas-NUCD)	35,146
Solis, Jose G.(Independent)	35,299
Camarines Sur	
(Namfrel, As of 5 p.m., May 16)	
Governor:	
Beltrano, Jose N.(Isang Bansa)	140
Delfin, Sultan Sadam (Independent)	214
Villafuerte, Luis R. (LDP)	69,666
Villamayor, Nora C. (Lakas-NUCD)	20,944
First District:	
Andaya, Rolando Jr. (Lakas-NUCD)	12,561
Genova, Roberto U. (LDP)	1,531
Second District:	
Carpio, Jose Maria Z. (LP)	3,263
Roco, Sulpicio Jr. S.(Aksyon)	12,966
San Buenaventura, L. E.(Lakas)	6,504
Santiago, Ruben (Isang Bansa)	1,243
Villafuerte, Mariano Jose F. (LDP)	12,284
Third District:	
Chavez, Gregorio B. (Independent)	429
Fuentebella, Felix William (NPC)	15,959
Pilapil, Eduardo P. (LDP)	9,743
Pilapil, Procio R. (Isang Bansa)	30
Fourth District:	
Alfelor, Felix (Lakas-NUCD-UMDP)	4,603
Fortuno, Salvio B.(LDP)	4,984
Pastoral, Liwanag Angel M.	46
Albay	
(Namfrel: As of 5 p.m., May 16)	
Governor	
Bichara, Al Francis (Lakas-NUCD)	90,462
Salalima, Romeo R. (Kampi)	47,188
First District:	
Bolo, Jose B (Independent)	57
Kare, Ana Marie T. (Aksyon)	14,196
Lagman-Luistro, Krisel B. (Lakas)	30,705
Second District:	
Imperial, Carlos D. R. (NPC-INA)	23,936
Roces, Imelda C. (Lakas-NUCD)	16,843
Third District:	
Salceda, Jose Ma. (Lakas-NUCD)	31,248
SOUTHERN TAGALOG	
Batangas	
(Namfrel: As of 12 noon, May 16)	
Governor	
Mandanas, Hermilando I. (Reporma)	158,111
Vicente Platon (PPC)	25,673
Arturo Atienza (Independent)	269
First District:	
Ilao, Isidro C. (Independent)	22
Ermita-Buhain, Elenita R (Lakas)	7,042
Mendoza, Victor P. (Independent)	80
Apacible, Rosario M. (LDP)	3,850
Second District:	
Perez, Francisco II S. (Lakas-NUCD)	5,126
Mendoza, Edgar L. (LDP-PnM)	3,662
Sulit, Edwin P. (Independent)	1,428
Third District.	
Maloles, Octavio De S.	4,041
Laurel, Jose Macario L. (Lakas)	22,797
Reyes, Victoria H. (Reporma-LM)	25,040
Fourth District:	
Gozos, Oscar L. (Lakas)	44,297
Sabili, Meynardo A. (Reporma)	18,416
Dimayuga, Jose R. (Independent)	94
Recto, Richard G. (Lakas)	6,113
Umali, Ruben L. (NPC)	18,057
Oriental Mindoro	
(Namfrel: As of 6:05 p.m.)	
Governor:	
Marasigan, Bartolome Sr. L. (Lakas)	59,359
Valencia, Chalie P. (Liberal Party)	40,545
First District:	
Levisto, Charity P. (Lakas-NUCD)	49,426
Manzo, Danto A.	27,449
Second District:	
Andaya, Manuel D.G. (Lakas-UMDP)	5,116
Punzalan, Josus M. (Lakas NUCD)	4,022
Umali, Alfonso Jr. V. (Liberal Party)	5,839
WESTERN VISAYAS	
Capiz	
(Namfrel: 112 of 358 precincts or 31.28%)	
Governor:	
Vicente Bermejo (LP)	12,600
Vicente Andaya Jr	5,536
First District:	
Esteban Contreras (Lakas)	5,346
Rodriguez Dadivas (LP)	10,746
Second District:	
Vicente Andaya III (Lakas-LDP-NPC)	3,831
Fredenil Castro (LP)	10,679
Iloilo	
(Radio station dyOK: As of 1 p.m.;	
Governor	
Demy Sonza (Lakas)	72,652
Niel Tupas (LDP)	100,933
(Radio station dyOK: As of 1 p.m.)	
First District:	
Oscar Garin (NPC)	22,174
Jaime Torres (Lakas NUCD)	16,647
Second District:	
Augusto Syjuco (LDP)	26,016
Rodolfo Cabado (Lakas NUCD)	17,416
Third District:	
Licurgo Tirador (LDP)	4,723
Arthur Defensor (Lakas)	12,068
Fourth District:	
Narciso Monfort (Lakas)	33,736
Ferjinel Biron (LDP)	32,791
Fifth District:	
Rolex Suplico (LDP)	16,064
Antonio Teduco (Lakas)	4,875
Iloilo City	
(Namfrel: 653 of 1,111 precincts)	
Lone District:	
Raul Gonzalez (Lakas NUCD)	57,015
Pascual Espinosa Jr. (PMP)	4,643
Guimaras	
(Namfrel: As of 12 noon)	
Governor:	
Rahman Nava (LDP)	31,425
Gerry Yucon (Lakas)	10,196
Lone District:	
Edgar Espinosa (Lakas)	21,302
Vicente de Asis (LDP)	15,037
Tomas Junco (Ind)	1,446
CENTRAL VISAYAS	
Cebu	
(Namfrel: 1,288 of 7,300 precincts)	
Governor:	
Pablo Garcia (Promdi-PPC)	88,556
Fernando Celeste (Alayon-PNM)	82,400
First District:	
Napoleon Rama Jr. (Abag-Promdi)	11,930
Jose Gullas (Alayon)	17,732
Jose Mari Lozada (Ind.)	2,128
Second District:	
Simeon Kintanar (Alayon),	2,063
Crisologo Abines (Abag-Promdi)	1,902
Fil-Roger Kintanar (Ind.)	92
Third District:	
Antonio Yapha (Alayon)	11,638
Jose Soberano III (Abag-Promdi)	6,312
Fourth District:	
Clavel Asas-Martinez (Promdi)	13,070
Doroteo Salazar (Alayon)	2,594
Fifth District:	
Joseph Ace Durano (Alayon)	17,795
Sixth District:	
Efren Herrera (Promdi-PPC)	18,970
Nerissa Ruiz (Alayon)	26,871
Cebu City	
(Namfrel: 1,129 of 2,058 precincts)	
South District:	
Antonio Cuenco (BOPK-Promdi)	28,978
Aristotle Batuhan (Kusug)	27,484
North District:	
Raul Del Mar (BOPK-Promdi)	56,084
Florencio Villarin (Ind)	6,274
Negros Oriental	
(Namfrel: 1,092 of 2,765 precincts)	
Governor.	
George P. Arnaiz (NPC)	106,548
Edgar Y. Teves (Lakas NUCD)	64,306
First District:	
Jacinto V. Paras (Lakas-NUCD)	10,234
Carmen D. Rodriguez (PMP)	4,910
Reynaldo Tuanda (NPC)	7,646
Danilo Roble (Ind.)	1,150
Second District:	
Emilio Macias II (NPC)	40,927
Francisco G. Villanueva (Lakas)	9,749
Miguel L. Romero (LDP)	27,699
Third District:	
Herminio G. Teves (Lakas-NUCD)	23,788
Bohol	
(Namfrel: 1,585 of 3,041 precincts)	
Governor:	
Rene Relampagos (PDP-Laban)	92,647
Erico Aumentado (Lakas-Promdi)	107,235
EASTERN VISAYAS	
Leyte	
(Namfrel: 321 of 4,476 precincts)	
Governor:	
Remedios Loreto-Petilla (Lakas)	35,242
Catalina Loreto Go (LDP)	19,549
Pido, Jesus (KBL)	587
First District:	
Alfredo Romualdez Jr. (NPC)	16,790
Enrico Antoni (Lakas-NUCD	2,363
Ted Fallon (Ind.)	18,658
Tacloban City	
(Namfrel: 310 of 414 precincts)	
Alfredo Romualdez (NPC-KBL)	21,475
Mimiette Bagulaya (LP-PPC)	9,155
Uldrico Mate (Lakas)	7,031
North Cotabato	
Governor:	
(Namfrel: 2 towns)	
Pinol, Emmanuel (Lihok Cotabato)	10,981
Dequina, Anthony (NPC)	2,823
First District:	
Diaz, Rosario (Lakas-NUCD)	2,797
Talino-Santos, Emmylou (Ind.)	3,575
Second District"	
Ipong, Gregorio (NPC)	2,906
Andolana, Gregorio (Lakas-NUCD)	1,519
Baynosa, Freddie (Lihok Cotabato)	1,608

Romualdezes trailing; Osmeñas ahead

(From page A1)

Manila-based ABS-CBN who hails from Leyte, began his broadcast career in a radio station owned by the Romualdezes in Tacloban. Alfred is seeking a second term.

But the Romualdez camp is not conceding that "Manila Boy" had defeated "Milyonaryong Tisoy."

Alfred told the INQUIRER in a telephone interview that his lawyers were already preparing a protest case against Failon for alleged massive fraud and vote buying.

The charges were quickly denied by Failon, who had earlier accused the Romualdez camp of engaging in massive vote buying on the eve of the elections.

Osmeña bailiwick

In Cebu City, former Mayor Tomas Osmeña (Promdi-PPC) was slightly ahead in the mayoral race against incumbent Mayor Alvin Garcia (Kusug) based on the latest quick count of the Church-based C-Cimpel.

Osmeña was ahead by over 1,000 votes over Garcia in the quick count involving 1,103 precincts, or 53.65 percent of the total voting precincts in the city. Osmeña garnered 68,051 votes while Garcia had 67,074.

In the gubernatorial race, reelectionist Gov. Pablo Garcia (Promdi-PPC) was ahead by 6,000 votes over Vice Gov. Fernando Celeste in the C-Cimpel count involving 16 percent of the precincts in the province.

But in the vice gubernatorial race, Garcia's running mate, former Rep. Celestino Martinez, was trailing Celeste's running mate, John Henry Osmeña II, son of Sen. John Osmeña. The young Osmeña was ahead by over 6,000 votes.

The Martinezes have remained a dominant force in their bailiwick in Cebu's fourth district.

Rep. Clavel Asis-Martinez, wife of Celestino, was headed for a landslide victory against her opponent, Madridejos Mayor Doroteo Salazar. The latest count results showed Martinez with 11,564 votes and Salazar, 2,258 votes.

FAILON

ROMUALDEZ

SHAHANI

Roxas bets

In Capiz, the Roxas family showed that no one could beat their candidates.

Those backed by Trade Secretary Manuel Roxas II, who ran under the Liberal Party-PPC-Uswag Capiz, were headed for a landslide victory based on unofficial results of counting.

They even held a thanksgiving Mass and victory party yesterday at the Roxas residence in Roxas City. Present were the trade secretary and his mother, Judy Araneta-Roxas.

According to Namfrel, reelectionist Gov. Vicente Bermejo got 8,431 as of noon yesterday, while his lone rival, Rep. Vicente Andaya Jr. (NPC) had 3,962.

In the mayoral race, reelectionist Mayor Antonio del Rosario garnered 8,504 votes while his lone rival, Rey Jose Antonio "Bingo" Altavas (LDP) got 3,892.

In the first congressional district, provincial board member Rodriguez Dadivas was leading with 7,258 votes over former Gov. Esteban Contreras (Lakas-NUCD) who had 3,689.

Shahani-Estrella

Partial and unofficial election returns in Pangasinan showed Shahani was lagging behind former National Electrification Administration chief Conrado Estrella III by more than 12,000 votes. Estrella is a former congressman of the sixth district.

Former President Ramos, in a last-ditch effort to win votes for Shahani, reportedly met with mayors, village leaders and political supporters days before the May 14 elections.

His efforts proved futile as his nephew appeared headed to lose even in the Ramoses' hometown of Asingan by 700 votes.

Shahani has filed a petition before the Commission on Elections to disqualify Estrella for alleged vote buying.

Ablan-Fariñas

Ablan, an ally of the Marcos family, could be heading for an upset win over Fariñas in the congressional race in Ilocos Norte's first district, based on partial and unofficial returns.

Based on Namfrel's quick count on Wednesday noon, Ablan garnered some 9,725 votes compared to Fariñas' 5,721 votes

The votes were recorded in 145 of 588 precincts in the district.

Ablan also posted an early lead over Fariñas in Laoag City, considered a Fariñas bailiwick, with 5,798 votes as against Fariñas' 4,162 votes.

Election returns gathered from the field also showed Ablan's winning trend over Fariñas.

Aguinaldo-Mamba

In Cagayan, election results gathered from Namfrel in Cagayan as of 10 a.m. showed 11,518 votes separating Mamba and Aguinaldo, a former Cagayan governor.

Mamba garnered 51,472 votes against Aguinaldo's 39,954.

In the capital Tuguegarao City, Mamba received 14,597 votes while Aguinaldo, who authored the bill creating the city, got 13,876.

In Mamba's hometown of Tuao, Mamba received 18,439 votes against Aguinaldo's 1,117.

New faces

In Ifugao, the province's youngest mayor, 36-year-old Teodoro Baguilat Jr. of Kiangan town was leading by 10,000 votes his closest rival, veteran politician Gualberto Lumauig, in the gubernatorial race.

Based on partial and unofficial results of the Comelec, Baguilat garnered 21,024 votes as against Lumauig's 11,444.

Lawyer Solomon Chungalao was leading in the lone congressional district race with more than 4,000 votes over Evangeline Cappleman, wife of outgoing Ifugao Rep. Benjamin Cappleman.

In Mt. Province, newcomer Roy Pilando was leading by more than 2,000 votes over former Rep. Victor Dominguez in the congressional race. *Vicente S. Labro, Gerry Pagharion, PDI Visayas Bureau; Yolanda Fuertes, Estanislao Caldez, Cristina Arzadon, Maribelle Dulnuan, Ben Moses Ebreo and Desiree Caluza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

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La'O tops RP golf with another 69

By Jong Arcano

COOKIE La'O has created a good habit of topping the stroke play stage of the Philippine amateur golf championship. Now it's up to him to break his bad habit of losing right away in match play.

Cookie's fortune was on the upswing again yesterday as he ruled the stroke play eliminations of the 2001 Philippine amateur golf championship with so much to spare after shooting a second straight three-under-par 69 at Alabang.

It was the second straight time and third in the last four years that La'O had emerged topnotcher.

Cookie's bid to end his string of four consecutive setbacks in the first round of match play will be challenged by Marvin Dumandan, a caddie from Apo, Davao, who bolted out of nowhere to earn a tie for the 16th and last spot then won a four-man playoff.

Dumandan, virtually out after an 82 on Tuesday, came charging back from a tie for 55th with a round of 71. On the 10th, the playoff hole, he whacked a mind-boggling approach from a stymie to salvage par and then watched jungolf aces Artemio Murakami and Gene Bondoc and Kit Lopez bungle their par-saving attempts.

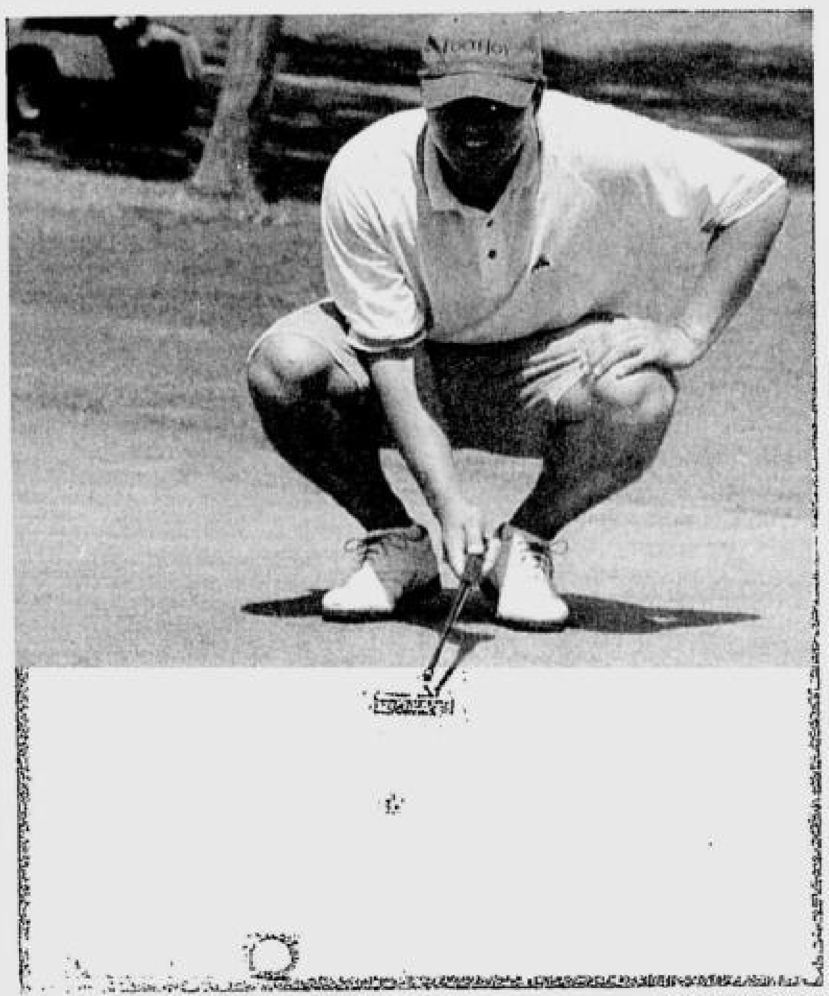
National standout Gerard Cantada, a consistent finisher in this series, has turned professional.

Angelo Que, the defending champion, encountered little trouble in advancing with his second straight 75, good enough for the No. 8 spot. He faces little-known Carl Almario who, like Dumandan, was among four players from the South to break into the Magic 16.

Jerome Delariarte, who had lost to Que in the finals last year and the tormentor of La'O in a gruelling match that went 24 holes, also secured his place as the No. 6 seed following a 75.

JR Tanpinco of Bacolod emerged the No. 2 qualifier, finishing six strokes behind La'O with his 72-144 while DHL Open champ Juvic Pagunsan, struggling with a 77 on the first day, snatched the No. 3 seeding at 147 following a 70.

Also advancing were Iggy Clavecilla (78-149), Boyet Zaragosa (73-149), Solomon Gines (77-149), Carl Almario (73-151), Yayi Escuadro (78-151), Jay Bayron (78-151), Joel Opaco (78-152), ex-pro Dave Hernandez (76-152), Jun Jun Plana (74-152) and Abe Rosal (79-152).



ROGER MARGALLO

LA'O: Next mission is to break the jinx.

McDonald House charity golfest

THE RONALD McDonald House Charities (RMHC) Philippines will stage its 5th Annual Golf Tournament at Sta. Elena on May 21. Tee-off is set at 7 a.m.

The charity golf aims to raise at least P2 million for the benefit of pediatric social service patients living within the geographic area of St. Luke's Medical Center (SMLC), and other indigent pediatric patients who consult at the SLMC Out-Patient Clinic.

The golf tournament expects a field of about 80 teams to be participated in by McDonald's executives, corporate friends and the media.

The sports-for-vaccines program will cover vaccines against mumps, measles, rubella (MMR), Hepatitis B and HIB.

The vaccines are administered to children from poor families who most need protection from these highly communicable diseases.

The Ronald McDonald House Charities Philippine has been a part of an augmented immunization program providing primary health care to all social service patients at St. Luke's Clinic.

Kenneth Yang, Ronald McDonald House Charities Philippines chair, said: "What we are doing is more than just organizing a golf game. We are giving our friends and business partners an opportunity to do something really worthwhile. This could mean saving the life of a child."

For details, call 813-0964 or 815-4708 loc. 271

On losing

SPECTATOR

Al S. Mendoza

LOSERS get nothing but consolation. Winners get tons of adulation—and more.

Losers become orphans. Winners are mobbed by fans.

Woe to losers for they end up like rags. Wow to winners for they end up showered with raves.

These are the code words by which both sports and politics exist.

The losers in the last elections will lick their wounds—in the company mostly of their immediate families.

The winners will lap it up not only in the company of their immediate families but also of strangers totally unknown to them, most presenting themselves suddenly as relatives.

Mike Velarde, up to this day, has not visited the jailed Erap, my favorite actor up to the last breath of my life. And yet, they were supposed to be the best of friends.

Lennox Lewis got nothing but boos after he lost his world heavyweight crown to unheralded Rashid Rahman only a while back. The other day, he got tons of woes as his promised rematch against Rahman went up in smoke. Rahman, John Ruiz and Evander Holyfield have inked contracts for fights involving the three of them in the next six months or so. Before they fought, Lewis was promised a rematch should Rahman win.

Like politicians, most of boxing's men are the first to break their promises.

Like politicians, most of boxing's men main interest is their own interest.

Nobody loves a loser.

Everybody loves a winner.

Pete Sampras has lost again, damaging all the more his reputation. The winner of a record 13 Grand Slam tennis tournaments also lost last week. Clearly, the sunset now stares him in the eye?

Younger versions of Pete have started taking over and, seemingly, only Andre Agassi is the only one left to carry the torch for the inhabitants of the world's home for the aged.

Nancy Lopez is another tenant of sports' convalescing homes.

Nancy, 44, failed to pass a sectional qualifying tournament for the US Open last weekend and wept openly afterwards.

"I would like to be there," said Nancy after shooting a 6-over-par 78, suddenly breaking down in tears while talking with sportswriters above the 18th green.

They don't treat you nice anymore once you have stopped winning. Even if—like Nancy Lopez—you are a Hall of Famer.

Nancy hasn't won the US Open despite having pocketed a record 48 tournaments. But she was a runner-up thrice, the last time in 1997 when she lost in a playoff to Alison Nicholas after becoming the only woman to shoot four rounds in the 60s.

As a 21-year-old in 1978, Nancy Lopez was the world's best. And yet, the only golf lessons she had were from his father, Domingo, who forbade her daughter to do the dishes.

"I told my wife, 'Our Nancy will not do any dishes. Her hands are meant for golf.'"

In 10 months that year, Nancy won six tournaments, proceeding to capture the imagination of the sporting world with the sweetness of both her swing and smile. She's credited for having done more to popularize women's golf than any other.

Then she grew old. And stopped winning tournaments.

In her flight last weekend was Tiffany Anselment, a 28-year-old fan of Nancy's.

"She was the first player lady golfer I ever followed," said Anselment. "I've always looked up to her."

Like Nancy, Tiffany didn't qualify.

"I don't think it's right," Anselment said. "When you've won as many tournaments as she has and you're in the Hall of Fame, you should qualify."

Nice one. But then, you're only as good as when you're winning. A coach keeps his job for as long as he is winning. When the winning stops, it's time to pack up.

Cruel? Yeah, but that's life. You can't go on winning all your life.

I believe even Erap, my poor soulmate, knows that by now.

Real life is entirely different from reel life.

GMA, Mike Arroyo to grace Kawal golf

THE COUNTRY'S top government, military and business personalities will grace the GMA Para sa Kawal Cup on Saturday at the Riviera Golf & Country Club.

President Arroyo, First Gentleman Mike Arroyo, former president Fidel Ramos, Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes, AFP Chief of Staff Gen. Diomedio Villanueva, PNOC president Thelmo Cunanan and AFP-RSBS president Cesar Jayme Jr. compose the presidential flight.

Army Commanding General Jaime delos Santos, Navy Capt. Ramon Espera, Director General Leandro Mendoza, Director Edgar Galvante, Director Cecilio Penilla and NBI Director Reynaldo Wycoco are also participating.

Participants from the private sector include Toyota Motors Phils. president Angel Kanapi, Marubeni Phils. Corp. president Ryukicki Kawaguchi, Himlayang Pilipino chair Valentin Daez, Nextel vice president for Asia Rob Harmon, Philippine Racing Club president Santiago Cua Sr., Manila Jockey Club president laywer Alfonso Reyno, Wellex chair William Gatchalian, Uy Realty Corp. president Roberto Uy, Laureano Macaraeg, Benito Chua and Antonio Ozaeta of Philippine Trust Company and Toyota Balintawak.

PAL has donated two business class round-trip tickets to Hong Kong as one of the raffle prizes.

For details, call Eduardo Santiago at the ASK office with tels. 913-5428 and 911-6001 loc. 6837.

Tough US Open

TULSA, Okla.—Fun is rarely associated with the US Open.

It is called the "toughest test in golf," and the 101st version that will be staged next month at Southern Hills figures to be just that, especially after how Tiger Woods ridiculed par a year ago in his record-setting victory.

It would seem the US Golf Association is poised to strike back. When Johnny Miller closed with a record-low 63 to win at Oakmont in 1973, the following year at Winged Foot was so brutal that Hale Irwin finished at 7-over 287—and still won by two strokes.

So, what to expect at Southern Hills"

There will be a par 4 that measures 491 yards (447 meters), which by Usga guidelines is a par 5 anywhere except a US Open. The only par 5 on the front nine has been stretched to 655 yards (596 meters), making it the longest hole in US Open history.

The 18th, already one of the most difficult closing holes in championship golf, has a new tee box behind a small stream that adds 20 yards (meters). It will play even longer than its 465 yards (423 meters) because the approach is to a steeply elevated green.

"We've taken one of the hardest finishing holes for a US Open golf course and made it harder," Tom Meeks of the Usga said smugly Monday during a preview of Southern Hills.

To really make the players suffer, all the Usga has to do now is grow the Bermuda rough deep enough to hide small children. That's how it was at Olympic Club in 1998, at Congressional the year before and at just about every other one Meeks can remember.

But that's not what the Usga wants.

The blue coats have loosened their ties and taken some of the starch out of their belief that a chance at birdie ends as soon as the ball leaves the fairway. *AP*

Track and field on today

FILIPINO tracksters will have a glimpse of their Southeast Asian counterparts when the 2001 Milo Invitational Track and Field Championship begins today at the Rizal Memorial Track and Field Oval.

Athletes from Thailand, Indonesia, Vietnam, Singapore and Malaysia are set to compete in the four-day tournament backed by the Philippine Sports Commission and the Philippine Amusements and Gaming Corporation.

Fifteen gold medals are at stake, with the first two up for grabs in the 20,000-meter walk for men and 10,000-m walk for boys

The opening ceremony is set at 9:30 a.m., with PSC Chair Carlos Tuason and Pagcor Chair Efhraim Genuino gracing the occasion.

Athletes from Sri Lanka are also participating, swelling the registry to about a thousand entries.

South Korea, Chinese Taipei, Hong Kong, Brunei and Papua New Guinea are also represented.

Local entries include those from the Philippine Sports Commission's Summer Training Camp in Laoag City.

"This is what we really need, to polish them until they become ripe for the national teams," Tuason said.

Lipton rappelling May 19 in Subic

UNILEVER Philippines will hold the "1st Lipton Rappelling Open" on Saturday, May 19, at the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority's Water Beach Front in Olongapo City.

Highlight of the event will be the awarding ceremonies for the main rappelling event as well as the different summer games held along the beach.

The three-week event is part of the ongoing "Lipton Summer Beach Wave" which aims to promote non-traditional sports among the youth.

According to Unilever Philippines senior brand manager for Lipton Noel Cortez, the event aims to teach the basics of rappelling and wall-climbing among the youth.

"It will surely improve their stamina and even help them overcome their fear of heights," he said.

The event's main attraction is a 20-foot man-made vertical platform called the "Lipton Wall" which has been constructed along the beach area to accommodate participants for the rappelling and wall-climbing activities.

Hingis cruises; Russians oust 3 top players

HINGIS

ROME —Top-seeded Martina Hingis had an easy time with Russia's Tatiana Panova.

But the WTA's rising Russian contingent knocked out three seeded stars from the first round of the Italian Open.

Hingis swept Tatiana Panova off Foro Italico's red clay in less than an hour, winning 6-2, 6-3.

The Swiss star hopes to be ready for a crack at a title in Paris, where she's reached _ and lost _ two finals.

On Wednesday, second-seeded Jennifer Capriati of the United States, who made her professional debut in Rome a decade ago, was slated to make her debut this year in the $ 1.185 million clay-court event.

On Tuesday, Russians Nadia Petrova, Lina Krasnoroutskya and Elena Likhovtseva moved into the second round at Foro Italico without dropping a set to their three seeded opponents. *AP*

Guba Head champ

TOP seed Johan Guba outplayed No. 2 Ian de Guzman, 3-6, 6-4, 6-3, yesterday to pocket the boys' 18-under title in the Head-Penn Age Group Tennis Championships at the Sancasa court in Cebu City.

In other matches, No. 1 Jandrick de Castro won the boys' 16-under title over No. 2 Janjie Soquino, 4-6, 6-4, 6-2, No. 2 Ed Angelo Diez stunned top seed Kyle Dandan, 6-2, 6-2, for the boys' 14-under crown while No. 2 Gerard Bergavera clinched the boys' 12-under title over Francis Casey Alcantara, 7-5, 4-6, 6-0.

TMS listing

THE PHILIPPINE Tennis Association will hold the TMS National Open on May 21-27 at the Rizal Memorial Tennis Center. The country's top players are expected to join the tournament, which will have a 64-man draw in the men's division and 32 in the women's division. Registration is ongoing at the Philta offices (tel. 525-64-34).

Bad weather postpones 5th Dive Fiesta

BAD weather forced organizers to postpone the 5th Subic Dive Fiesta last weekend.

Instead, it will be held side by side with the equally exciting 99.5 RT FM National Watercross Challenge on May 26 at the Subic Bay Aqua Sports Center along Waterfront Road in SBMA.

"It will be a two-in-one package of fun and entertainment for watersports and beach lovers. Expect it to be one summer affair to remember," said race organizer Macky Carapiet.

The 5th Subic Dive Fiesta awards night shall also be held together with the Wet and Wild awards night of the 99.5 RT FM National Watercross Challenge, featuring the K.O. Jones band and the much-awaited Bikini competition at 7 p.m.

Over 60 participants have already confirmed their participation in this event sponsored by Subic Bay Aqua Sports Center, Continental Air Micronesia, MOF Subic, Health Visions Corp., Verde Island Resorts, Gulf Oils, MV Kin, South Sea Resources, United Distillers Inc. Mangos Restaurant' Otto Shoes, Sea Gypsy Wetsuits, Signature Brands for Less, Zanzibar Hotel, Ann Raquel's Resort, By the Sea Hotel, Sam's Pizza, Pista sa Barrio and SBMA Freeport Recreation Committee.

Interested parties may call Macky at 0917-899-2363 or Cecile at (047) 2526097.

Shooters sign pact for Armscor use

THE PHILIPPINE Sportsmen Society and Armscor Shooting Ranges Inc. signed recently a memorandum of agreement allowing PSS members to use the facilities of Armscor.

PSS president Ray Cordova and Armscor executive secretary Danny dela Paz signed the MOA in the presence of Secretary Renato Corona, Malacañang chief of staff.

Present were Armscor vice president Nestor Abacan, PSS directors Feliciano Gregorio, Bernie Manual, Ruben Manuel, Prof. Andrecito Acuna, Dr. Gavino Mejia, Jimmy Liwanag, Arnel Dimaano, Manny Felipe, Constantino Feri and Eduardo Mamucod.

Among the prominent PSS members are Gov. Luis 'Chavit' Singson, Ed Fernandez, chair of the Philippine National Shooting Association; Mandy Maquez, Raul Arambulo, lawyer Poch de Castro and Rep. Jackie Enrile, chair of the board.

Pinoy-American boxer wins Hawaii pro debut

HONOLULU — Brian Viloria knocked down Ben Jun Escobia in two of four rounds Tuesday for an unanimous decision in the Hawaii native's professional boxing debut.

Viloria, a 20-year-old world amateur light flyweight champion, floored the 30-year-old Escobia of the Philippines with jarring left hooks in the first and third rounds.

The victory was a sweet return home for the 112-pound (50.4-kilogram) Viloria, who lost his last fight at the Sydney Olympics where he was favored to win gold.

Viloria opened with a series of quick jabs and hooks. His punishing blows were clear to the judges and the Hawaii Convention Center crowd as Escobia twice stumbled to the mat. Viloria landed 144 blows to Escobia's 35.

The 5-foot-2 (157.5-centimeter) fighter dominated from the opening bell, connecting on several combinations throughout the bout. Escobia flailed wildly throughout, but landed a strong uppercut in the second round which momentarily slowed Viloria.

The two traded blows in the third round until Viloria connected with a left hook to Escobia's head. Escobia clung to Viloria as the bell sounded.

Escobia fell to 13-14-3, with five knockouts.

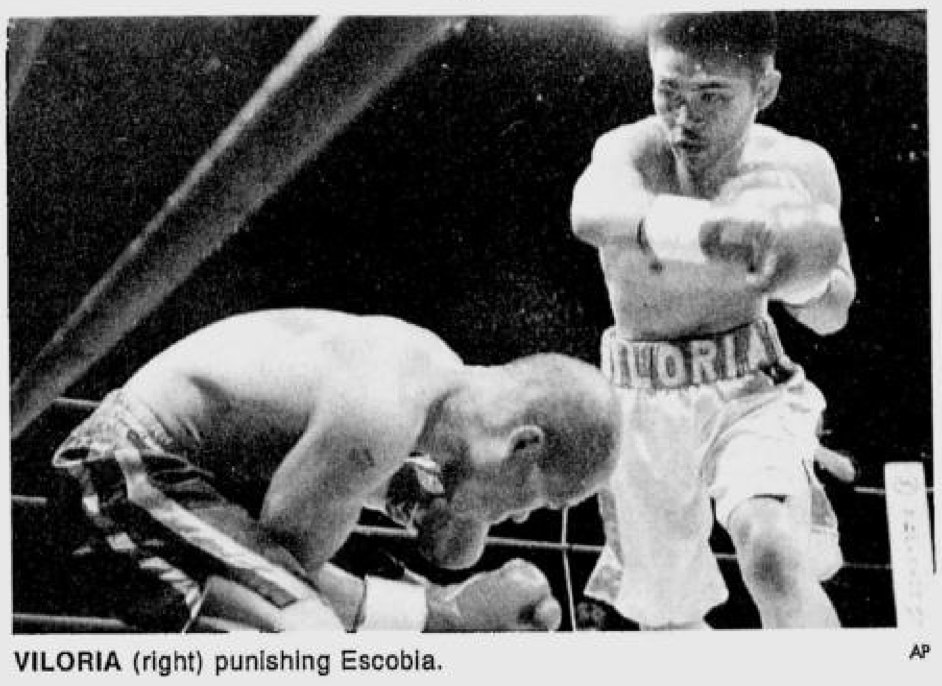
The four-round bout was on the undercard of a scheduled 10-round fight in which featherweight Fernando "Bobby Boy" Velardez of San Bernardino, California, defeated Jesus Salud, known as the Hawaiian Punch.

The referee stopped the bout in the eighth round, with Salud (62-11, 37 KOs) bleeding from a cut over the left eye. All three judges had Velardez (18-4-1, 5 KOs) leading before he landed a right which left Salud bloody.

In other undercard bouts:

Ann Wolfe of Austin, Texas, by unanimous decision, beat Vienna Williams of Philadelphia for the IFBA junior middleweight women's world title. Wolfe improved to 8-1,4 KOs, and previously undefeated Williams finished the fight at 5-1,2 KOs.

Jose Navarro of Los Angeles stopped Carlos Zambrano of Nebraska 1:38 minutes into the third round of a junior bantamweight bout. Navarro improved his record to 4-0,1 KO. Zambrano fell to 3-5-1. *AP*



VILORIA (right) punishing Escobia.

AP

SPORTS ON TV

COMPILED BY LORENZO MANGUIAT

BASKETBALL: NBA Conference Semifinals - Toronto vs. Philadelphia Game 5 at 12 noon on RPN 9 (r- 5:30 p.m. on IBC 13)

1988 L.A. Lakers - Back To Back at 6 p.m. (r) on ESPN

1987 L.A. Lakers - Drive For Five at 7:30 p.m. on ESPN

GOLF: PGA Verizon Byron Nelson Classic, Final Round at 8 a.m. (r), Highlights at 10 p.m. on Star Sports

TENNIS: WTA Betty Barclay Cup Finals at 3:30 p.m. (r) on Star Sports

RACING TIPS

AT SANTA ANA BY MR. 999

Race 1—1. Down For Double 2. Sweet Inspiration 3. Free Radical

Race 2—1. Man of the Hour 2. Notable 3. Cherry Lane

Race 3—1. Strong Element 2. Ocean Magic 3. Lady Chip 4. His Excellency

Race 4—1. Dial Tone 2. Inside Treasure 3. Beth Sie 4. Kontra Todo 5. Tour de Force

Race 5—1. Hinobaan's Pride 2. The Serpent 3. Kamahalan 4. My Prayer

Race 6—1. Ocean Dignity 2. Morning Glory 3. Maid of Kalibo 4. Rainmaker

Race 7—1. King of Arabia 2. Sunrise 3. Achilles Heel 4. Green Tempo 5. Front Page

Race 8—1. Key to Heaven/Full Blast 2. Above All 3 Early Warning/Stately Emblem 4. Altron 5. Steel Wheel 6 Quick Change

Sonics' Patterson gets 15 days in jail

SEATTLE—Seattle SuperSonics forward Ruben Patterson was sentenced Tuesday to a year in jail with all but 15 days suspended under a modified plea to an attempted rape charge. Patterson wept as he entered a plea, under which he did not admit guilt but agreed a jury might convict him. *AP*

SPORTS

AL S. MENDOZA, Editor EDWIN M. VILLANUEVA, Assistant Editor

PSC to tap Fil-foreign athletes

THE PHILIPPINE Sports Commission will explore the possibility of tapping Filipino-Australians and Filipino-Americans to boost the country's gold-medal winning chances in the Kuala Lumpur Southeast Asian Games."They are trained using high technology equipment and upscale training regimen monitored by their parents. Persuading them to compete for the country will give us the edge against our opponents in the SEA Games," said PSC chair Carlos Tuason.

Beermen tame Gins, a win shy of crown

GAME TOMORROW
(Araneta Coliseum)
7:15 p.m. SMB vs Ginebra

By Marc Anthony Reyes

SAN Miguel Beer tamed Barangay Ginebra in overtime, 98-95, last night and moved a step closer to the PBA All-Filipino Cup title.

Danny Ildefonso hit two free throws in the final 16.6 seconds to silence the full house, highly partisan Araneta Coliseum crowd and ensure the Beermen's 3-2 lead in their best-of-seven series.

ILDEFONSO

A win tomorrow at the Big Dome would give San Miguel its 16th conference championship that was highly in doubt two games ago as Ginebra proved to be tougher than everybody thought.

Ginebra imposed its run-and-gun style—fashioned out through sensational rookie Mark Caguioa—but lost grip of it when Danny Seigle forged the extra period.

There, San Miguel patiently executed its usual plays while Ginebra missed left and right.

After Ildefonso's charities, Caguioa, who made a career-high 30 points, had the chance to push the game into a second overtime but his three-pointer bounced off the rim as time ran out.

Ginebra still got the fire it had in the previous two games, flashing the sharpness from the floor (16-of-34) and the energy to run circle on San Miguel to lead by as many as 15 points in the first half.

And while Ginebra was doing well, San Miguel was still showing the rust that accumulated in Games 3 and 4, making just 10 of its 38 attempts.

What keyed the Gins' dominance was their relentless defense, which made the Beermen toil for every shot. It was best dramatized when Ronald Magtulis swatted away what could have been a slam dunk by Danny Ildefonso two minutes left in the second quarter.

Ildefonso wasn't able to score in the first two quarters, thanks to the pesky guarding of Wilmer Ong and Alex Crisano, who took turns in forcing him to shoot 0-of-6.

The crowd again played a big part in inspiring the underdog Kings, whose first-half lightning assault left the Beermen bewildered.

Scores:

SAN MIGUEL 98—Seigle 28, Ildefonso 15, Lago 14, Racela 14, Belasco 11, Pena 7, Abuda 4, Duat 4, Victoria 1, Mustre.

GINEBRA 95—Caguioa 30, Limpot 16, Helterbrand 13, David 12, Meneses 10, Magtulis 7, Calpito 5, Crisano 2, Lago 0, Ong 0.

Quarters: 15-17, 31-39, 64-65, 88-88, 98-95

Regent subdues Boysen-MLQU, 52-51

STANDINGS	W	L
Univ. of Assumption	4	1
UP-Waterfront	4	1
Regent Cheeseballs	4	2
Boysen-MLQU	2	3
Spring Cooking Oil	2	2
Gringo-Konica	2	3
Whiz Super Oil	1	4
NU	1	4

GAMES TUESDAY (Makati Coliseum)
9 a.m.—Whiz vs. NU
10:45 a.m.—Assumption-Goldilocks
vs. Spring Cooking Oil
12:30 p.m.—Boysen vs. Gringo

REGENT Cheeseballs was held scoreless in the final five minutes, but lucky breaks paved the way for its 52-51 escape over defending champion Boysen-MLQU yesterday in the 1st Crystal Spring PYBL Title Cup at the Makati Coliseum.

Rudy Espino topped with 12 points and three steals as the Cheeseballs improved their record to 4-2.

The Paint Experts absorbed their third setback in five games.

"*Suwerte lang talaga.* We had a lot of lapses and we had to find a remedy," said Regent coach Allan Trinidad.

The Cheeseballs were way ahead, enjoying a commanding 52-40 margin following Espino's triple with 5:11 remaining.

But they collapsed in the ensuing play, unable to convert most of their hurried shots aside from the turnovers that paved the way for Boysen-MLQU's 11-0 bomb behind Theody Habelito and Edilito Saygo, who cut the deficit to just a hairline, 51-52, with 2:16 left.

However, both teams failed to score in the stretch. Paint Experts Julius Ceazar Rivera and Saygo flubbed their attempts in the dying minute.

But the most crucial was a missed jumper by Marphil Limbo in the final 9.5 seconds that cast doom to Boysen-MLQU's hopes for a come-from-behind victory.

A mad scramble for ball possession ensued after Limbo's miss. Regent's Arwind Santos grabbed the rebound and held on to the leather until time expired.

Scores:

Regent 52—Espino 12, Chavez 10, Tadeo 7, Ruiz 6, Santos 6, Tama 5, Alcaraz.3, Cocjin 2, Ramirez 1, Gican 0, Magpayo 0, Sierra 0.

MLQU-Boysen 51—Saygo 24, Rivera 6, Mallari 6, Aldave 5, Habelito 4, Afable 4, Limbo 2, Conmigo 0, Mercado 0, Carretas 0

Quarterscores: 9-13; 24-24; 40-34; 52-51

Kwarta Padala repulses Dazz

CEBU CITY—ML Kwarta Padala hang tough in the half to turn back Dazz Ultra Dishwashing Paste, 75-67, yesterday in the 1st OHM CBL-MICAA Summer Showdown at the Inayawan Sports Complex here.

With their defense working smoothly according to plan, the Cash Forwarders coach Eddie Ybañez employed timely player rotation to keep their offensive guns ablaze in the final two quarters.

"We had some lapses but we still managed to stay in focus in the entire game as we limited their outside shooting and inside hustle. James Relampagos played his role better this time and Jessie Lumantas made it easier for us outside the paint," Ybañez said.

Motocross holds leg in Guimaras

MOTOCROSS resumes its island-hopping sorties with the staging of the fourth leg in San Miguel, Jordan, Province of Guimaras on Sunday.

Dubbed "National Motocross Super Series 2001: A Race of Guimaras and WG&A Super Ferry", the one-day race is being organized by Hartebeest Entertainment Corp. in cooperation with MAD and Kids Foundation as part of the annual "Manggahan Festival."

More than 100 riders from Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao are expected to see action in this prestigious event hosted by Real Adventure Group, headed by Boyz Jamandre, and sponsored by PLDT, WG&A Super Ferry, Bench, Smart ZED, Norkis-Yamaha, Transtainer Systems, Access Plus, Dreambikes Superstore and Agua Vida.

The country's top three riders-Glen Aguilar, Ernie Leongson and Jovie Saulog—head the cast of riders vying in the centerpiece pro open category in the race also supported by Dept. of Tourism-Guimaras, FF Cruz Shipping and Caltex.

Aguilar is leading in bot the pro open and pro 125 categories.

Marilen Nuñez of Hartebeest is inviting all riders, especially those in the Visayas, to participate in the 15 categories lined-up for the day.

IVERSON: Shortest and lightest MVP.

Iverson NBA's best

PHILADELPHIA — Allen Iverson, who led the overachieving Philadelphia 76ers to the best record in the East, was picked as the NBA's Most Valuable Player on Tuesday.

Iverson got 1,121 points to beat out San Antonio's Tim Duncan (706 points) and Los Angeles' Shaquille O'Neal, last year's winner, who had 578 points from the panel of sportswriters and broadcasters in the United States and Canada.

Iverson—at 6 feet (1.83 meters) the shortest player in NBA history to win the award as well as the lightest at 165 pounds (74 kilograms)—had 93 first-place votes out of a possible 124. Duncan had 18.

He is the first Sixer to win the award since Moses Malone in 1982-83, the last year Philadelphia won a championship. Wilt Chamberlain and Julius Erving also won the award for the Sixers.

Iverson led the league in scoring for the second time in three years, with an average of 31.1 points per game; was first in steals (2.51); and tied for first in minutes (42.0).

He earned MVP honors in the All-Star game after his 25-point performance led the East back from a 21-point deficit, was NBA Player of the Month for January and was Player of the Week twice.

Hornets beat Bucks, close in on Finals slot

MILWAUKEE—The Charlotte Hornets beat the Milwaukee Bucks at their own game and on their own court Tuesday night.

Jamal Mashburn scored 24 points and the Hornets imitated Milwaukee's up-tempo, jump-shooting style to perfection in a 94-86 victory that moved them within one win of their first trip to the Eastern Conference finals.

VIVA Vintage Sports will telecast the pivotal Game Five of the NBA Eastern Conference Semifinals between the Philadelphia 76ers and the Toronto Raptors today at 12 noon on RPN-9, with a replay at 5:30 p.m. on IBC 13.

Baron Davis added 19 points and had a career-high five 3-pointers for sixth-seeded Hornets, who handed the Bucks their first loss at the Bradley Center in exactly two months.

Milwaukee, which owns a three-game losing streak for the first time since Nov. 22-25, faces elimination in Game 6 Thursday night in Charlotte.

Glenn Robinson scored 22 points and Ray Allen had 20 for the Bucks, who trimmed a 14-point third-quarter deficit to three points late in the fourth quarter before fading over the final three minutes.

LCC derby starts today

IT WILL be a fight to the finish among Metro Manila's big-time and medium-scale cockers today as the "LCC Group 5-1Cock Derby" fires off at Mandaluyong Coliseum beginning at 6 p.m. Sponsors of the 50 fight derby program are Sagupaan Super Feeds and Lakpue Drug Inc.

Consistent derbyist Louie Cua and company are hosting this one-day event. Among the expected participants are Peping Suarez, Eric dela Rosa, Muroy Dolorico, William Co, Renato Shio, Cristina Group, Vic Yu, Raymond Velayo, Joey delos Santos, Ucap president Butch Macasaet, Patrick Antonio, Lito Orillaza, Rudy Salud, Robert So, Argem Coliseum and Boy de Roca.

METRO Manila's small-time and upcoming derbyists are seeing action in a special 3-cock derby at Pasay City Cockpit tomorrow, May 18 where a cash prize of P150,000 is at stake.

Tolomia leads MVP derby

GAMES TODAY (Makati Coliseum)
3:30 p.m.—Ateneo-Pioneer vs PharmaQuick
5:30 p.m.—Hapee Toothpaste vs Montaña

By Dennis U. Eroa

NO LONGER Roger Yap's sidekick, high-leaping Chester Tolomia takes the spotlight in the exciting MVP race.

After the end of the eliminations, the 6-foot-1 Shark main man totaled 316 statistical points. He ranks second in scoring with a 17.6 average and sixth in rebounds with 7.3 caroms.

"This will inspire me to play harder," said the 21-year-old Tolomia Tolomia backed up Yap, who emerged as MVP, in the Challenge Cup ruled by Shark last February.

To observers, Tolomia is an unpolished gem. The Zamboanga City-native can slice the middle, boasts an outside game, but lacks mental toughness.

Unlike Tolomia, second-running GIV's Marlon Legaspi (264) has no decent outside shot. But with his timing and long reach, the 6-foot-4 Pampangueño is the league's No.1 shot-blocker (3.4 ave), eighth in scoring (13.6) and fifth in rebounds (7.6).

In third place is another Shark dribbler--slotman Rysal Castro with 254 points. The 6-foot-5 Castro is averaging 10.7 points and 5.9 rebounds per game. He ranks sixth in three-point shots (16 of 52 or 31 percent).

Roland Pascual of Ana Freezer is in fourth place with 249 points, while Leonides Avenido of PharmaQuick completes the magic five with 243.

Completing the top ten are Bruce Dacia (242), Gilbert Malabanan (237), Dondon Mendoza (235), Yancy de Ocampo (233) and Ren Ren Ritualo (227). Dacia of PharmaQuick is the league's scoring leader with 19.3 ave.

Bullstrong Rich Alvarez of Ateneo-Pioneer rules the boards with a 9.4 ave., followed by De Ocampo with 9.3.

Osaka Iridology's Rommel Daep tops the three-point shot with 42 percent (19 of 42), while GIV's Ogie Gumatay converted 18 of 25 attempts (72 percent) to lead the two-point shots.

Ritualo missed just two of 24 attempts to lead free throws Ana's Robin Mendoza topped assists with 5.4 ave., while Welcoat's Eugene Tan emerged as No. 1 in steals with 2.3

The most erratic dribbler is Gumatay with 4.6 turnovers, followed by Michael Robinson with 4.4

Xavier nears semis berth

UNDEFEATED Xavier School made it six in a row by beating Ateneo B, 71-51, yesterday at the PCU gym to move within a victory of clinching the first junior semifinal slot in the 7th Fr. Martin Cup invitational basketball tournament.

Shifty Tyrone Tang again led Xavier with 19 points. He was ably supported by Sammy Young with 14, Chris Tiu and Louie Lao, who tallied 12 each.

The FEU belles spilled UE, 61-43, while the UE Pages nipped PCU, 49-46, in other matches of the series sponsored by Agfa, Photo Plus, Red Bull and Smart-Piltel.

Over at the Philsports Arena, the Letran Knights improved their group A record to 3-1 by downing San Beda B, 78-72, while TIP toppled UST B, 73-68.

Aerobics buffs compete June 12

REXONA poses the biggest challenge to the country's aerobics and fitness enthusiasts when it sponsors the first and biggest mass aerobics competition as part of the country's Independence Day celebration on June 12.

To be held at the grounds fronting the Quirino Grandstand, the event, dubbed as the Rexona Independence Day Aerobics Marathon, is expected to attract 2000 participants from both the private and the government sectors who will vie for the more than a quarter of a million pesos cash prize at stake.

Competition in this all-female aerobics event, will be in different categories, open, amateur, and government with the latter free of registration fee while the open and amateur participants pay a minimal entry fee of P50 that entitles them to free Rexona gift packs.

The competition will differ from regular aerobics contests in the past as it will put emphasis on the endurance of the competitors, the winner of which is expected to continuously different aerobics exercises for over 10 hours.

From the open area across Quirino Grandstand, the participants will move to Manila Hotel after the first session set form 7:30 to 10 a.m., according to the organizers, who are also supported by Lifeline Arrows and Polar Heart Rate Monitor.

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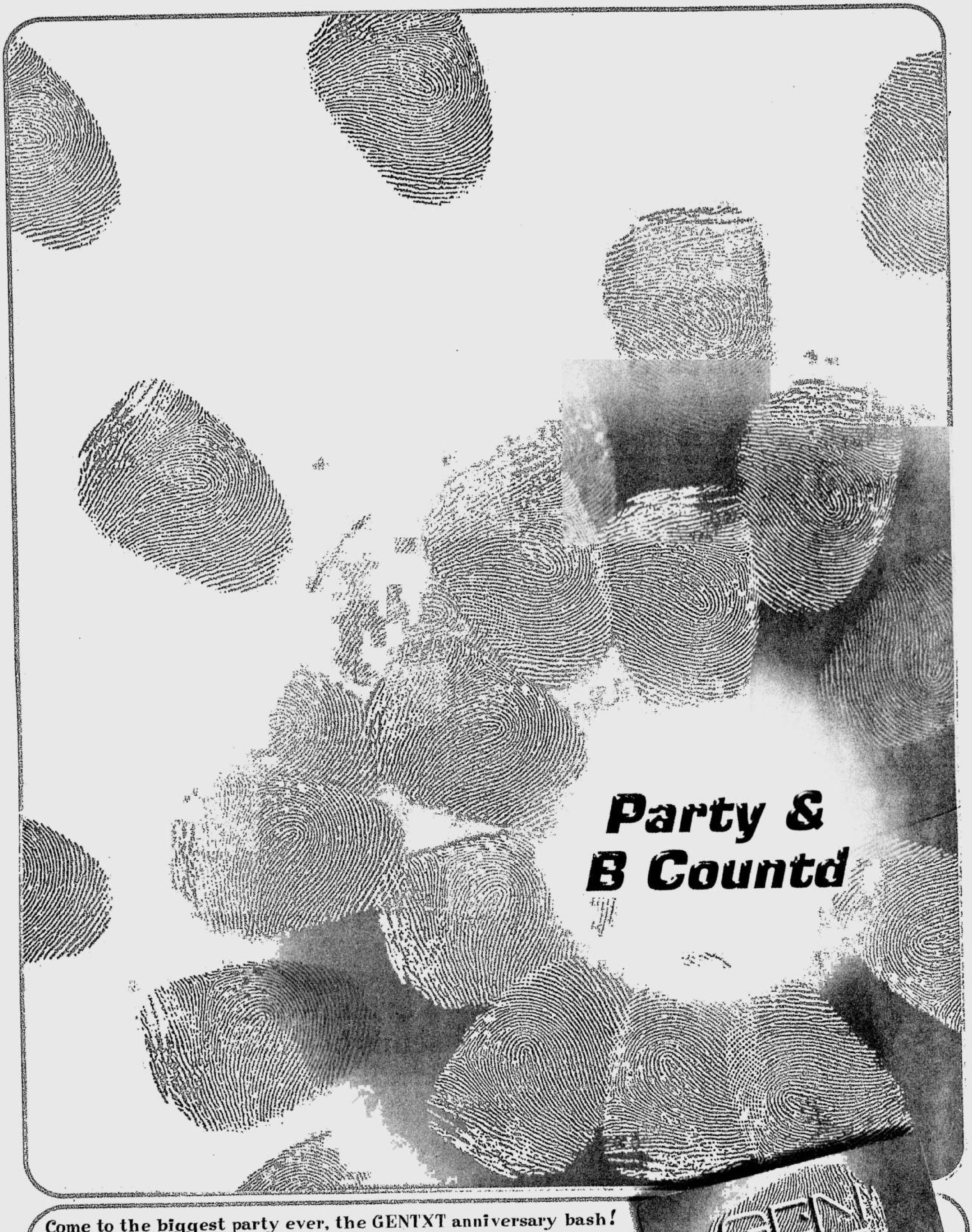

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May 18, Friday, 9 p.m.
Hosts: Pia Guanio & Ed Feist
Bands: Time and a Half
Passage
DJ Ouch

Cebu
The Village
(in front of Club Fuel)
May 18, Friday, 9 p.m.
Hosts: Shaan Bermudez
& Tone Wijangco
Bands: Parliament
Syndicate
DJ Tone

Baguio
Nevada Square
May 19, Saturday, 9 p.m.
Hosts: Tricia Chiongbian
& Bobby Yan
Bands: Pido with Take One
Brown Flava

Davao
Matina Town Square
May 19, Saturday, 9 p.m.
Hosts: Shaan Bermudez
& Tone Wijangco
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'I hired armed group'

GONZALEZ

By Agnes Donato

INCUMBENT Rep. Jose Mari Gonzalez admitted on Tuesday that the 68 armed men arrested in San Juan Sunday were working for him.

He was, however, quick to claim that he was deceived into hiring them.

Gonzalez, who is up for reelection, told reporters he hired the armed group because he thought they were legitimate.

"The leader, Master Sgt. Jess Vera, told me his group was coordinating with the local police and that the Commission on Elections gave them an approval," Gonzalez said, adding that he did not intend to break the law.

Gonzalez said he would be filing "misrepresentation charges" against the 68 men.

Also, a group of retired and active military and police officers yesterday denied the 68 armed men arrested were part of their group.

The Philippine Guardians Brotherhood Inc. disowned the suspects, who claimed to be Guardian members after they were collared on the eve of the May 14 polls.

In a statement, the Guardians described the suspects as "misguided elements."

Gonzalez, with opponent Ronald Estella, went to the San Juan gym where votes were being canvassed on Tuesday night to protest the

I HIRED/A20

NAMFREL/COMELEC

MANILA	
As of 12:30 pm	
Mayor	
Atienza	32,029
Lim	25,421
Bagatsing	18,119
Vice Mayor	
Lacuna	42,671
Dionisio	16,458
Gernale	11,055
Congressmen	
1st District	
Nieva	3,911
Isidro	1,684
Lim	1,335
2nd District	
Lopez	4,747
Ponce	3,439
Viceo	1,261
3rd District	
Angping	7,732
Ducat	3,641
Fugoso	1,743
4th District	
Bacani	11,877
Herrera	4,432
5th District	
Hizon	15,268
Cantal	2,106
6th District	
Crespo	5,050
Ocampo	4,710
Abante	3,966
CALOOCAN	
As of 12 pm	
Mayor	
Malonzo	15,894
Asistio	14,362

NAMFREL/COMELEC/A20

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8th day Bar • Cafe St. Francis Sq. Ortigas Ctr.	WISEGUYS	P 200 CONSUMABLE ☎634.7696/98
AUDIOTORIUM 29 West Ave., Quezon City	SABOR LATINO	374.2330/373.5574
Cowboy Grill Alabang-Zapote Rd., Almanza, Las Piñas	KNIGHTS STAY TUNED	NO ENTRANCE FEE ☎801.7644
Cowboy Grill 119 Arquiza St., Malate	STREETLIFE MR. ROXY/MIX-UP	NO ENTRANCE FEE 525.1474/525.4269
Cowboy Grill 41 Remedios St., Malate	HOMOSAPIENS FAT 16	NO ENTRANCE FEE ☎521.8143
Cowboy Grill Novaliches Q.C.	MAGIC TOUCH FEEDBACK/CITY BORN	SOUTHBORDER MAY 21, MONDAY
KAMPO 2088 #47 West Avenue Q.C.	AEGIS FIGURE 8/LIMITED EDITION	P 250 CONSUMABLE ☎373.5110
Examiner's Lite n' Live #52 Examiner St. Q.C.	FLIPSIDE MERMAIDS	P 150 CONSUMABLE ☎373.2221
Music Warehouse In front of Central Market	JEREMIAH NEW LEVEL	NO ENTRANCE FEE 735.1280/735.1405
Padi's Point Mindanao Ave. cor. Congl. Q.C.	FOR THE ROAD RED SECTOR A	SIDE A JUNE 14/925.3117
Tia Maria's Jupiter St., Makati City	SOUTHBORDER MAY 23, WEDNESDAY	P 250 CONSUMABLE ☎890.4735
Tia Maria's Remedios cor. Carolina	FIRST CALL TH-3	NO ENTRANCE FEE ☎522.0429
Tropical Forest Cafe Grill Restaurant	BIG NITE OUT	4-COURSE SET MENU P250/MON-SUN/5-10 PM
OTHER PLACES		
Jer's II Real Calamba, Laguna	CIRCLE OF FAITH	P 50 ENTRANCE ☎(0919)2786391
Purple Ostrich Island Cove Kawit Cavite	SIDE A w/ REGINE V. MAY 19, SATURDAY	P 200 TICKET/7 PM ☎810.3718

THURSDAY MAY 17, 912-8983

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Malonzo denies he's in hiding

MALONZO

"I HAVE not gone into hiding; I'm just taking a break because I feel exhausted."

This was the statement yesterday of reelectionist Mayor Reynaldo Malonzo of Caloocan City, belying rumors that he has gone into hiding because of threats on his life.

Malonzo said he has indeed been receiving death threats, but he added that would not be enough to drive him to hide in a safehouse.

"*Baka lumabas na naduduwag ako* (it might come out that I have turned into a coward)," Malonzo said yesterday afternoon on the telephone. "No, I have not gone into hiding, I'm just resting *sa sobrang pagod; may* interview *pa nga ako sa* TV *mamaya* (I'll even be appearing on TV for an interview later)."

Malonzo, who is seeking a third and final term, said he started receiving death threats two weeks ago.

He said unidentified men have been calling him on the telephone several times a day to tell him he will soon be dead.

Aside from the calls, Malonzo said he has also been receiving hundreds of threatening text messages on his cellular phone.

Intelligence reports also revealed a supposed plot to kill him before or after the election.

Malonzo said his political opponents could be behind the alleged assassination plot.

He is running against Rep. Luis "Baby" Asistio in the mayoral race.

Yesterday, supporters of Malonzo and Asistio nearly clashed at Tala Elementary School in the city's Bukid area.

At least 12 Asistio supporters in four vehicles trooped to the school after Asistio pollwatchers reported that Malonzo's men were allegedly harassing them at about 1 a.m., said Asistio spokesperson Allan Encarnacion.

Lawyer Francisco Veza, Malonzo's secretary, led around 20 Malonzo supporters in five vehicles in accosting Asistio's men, Encarnacion said.

"Why are you here? Get out unless you want to be pissed off here," Veza allegedly told Asistio's pollwatchers.

After Veza supposedly made the statement, one of his men pulled out a gun, Encarnacion said.

This prompted Asistio's men to pull out their own firearms.

Tension filled the area until a ranking police official intervened 30 minutes later and pacified both parties, Encarnacion said.

When asked to comment, Malonzo denied knowledge of the incident.

Today, Malonzo will mark his 49th birthday with an "Alay Lakad" program and a Mass at the Notre Dame of Greater Manila campus in Grace Park. ***Christian V. Esguerra and Louie Jon Sanchez***

Don't blame teachers for poll fiasco

ON TARGET

Ramon Tulfo

THE COMMISSION on Elections has scolded senatorial candidate Noli de Castro, who's leading in the counting, for appearing on TV for interviews Monday night while the counting was going on.

Comelec Chair Alfredo Benipayo said that De Castro's TV appearance might have influenced voters in areas where the election was either delayed or postponed.

De Castro talked as if he had already won the elections.

The TV newscaster said he didn't know that giving TV and radio interviews while elections in some areas were postponed or delayed was prohibited under the Election Code.

Sabi nang huwag iboto ang mga bobo !

***

Comelec Chair Benipayo cannot be blamed for the May 14 elections fiasco. He's still groping in the dark because he's new at the poll body.

The blame should be thrown at the laps of the "oldtimers"— the commissioners who have been in their positions for a long time. Instead of helping Benipayo, they are quarreling with him. Worse, they're washing their dirty linen in public.

If there are commissioners who should be impeached for the fiasco as suggested by former Comelec Chair Christian Monsod, it should be the oldtimers.

***

Benipayo is a hard and efficient worker.

When Benipayo was the court administrator of the Supreme Court, things went smoothly at the high court. Court records were in order, judges were made to toe the line.

Given enough time and full cooperation by his peers at the Comelec, Benipayo will set things aright at the poll body.

***

Whenever things go wrong at the polling precincts during election time, we blame the teachers who man the precincts.

But do we consider the hardship these poor souls go through every election?

Public schoolteachers, who are deputized by the Comelec to hand out and receive ballots, take care of the ballots and election paraphernalia, count the results and do other menial things not appreciated. They receive only a pittance for their trouble.

Worse, the Comelec didn't even give the P900 per diem promised to each of the 480,000 teachers who rendered election service.

***

A copy of yesterday's INQUIRER showed some teacher collapsing on their desks at the Ninoy Aquino Stadium which has been converted into a polling place. The teachers looked dead tired.

Those teachers should have been home with their families or enjoying a vacation just like other citizens on election day, a holiday. But they were busy counting and protecting your ballots. Most of them were too preoccupied to sleep. In many areas, some of them went hungry because they couldn't entrust the ballots to outsiders while they ate.

Before blaming the public schoolteachers for the May 14 fiasco, please consider what they've been through.

***

The Filipino electorate is becoming mature.

Except for a few, many movie stars who ran for public office in the just concluded polls were rejected by the voters.

In previous elections, voters chose candidates not because they were intelligent but because they were good-looking. This didn't happen during these elections.

Actor Rudy Fernandez is trailing Speaker Sonny Belmonte for the Quezon City mayoral race. Superstar Nora Aunor is about to lose to Luis Villafuerte in the gubernatorial race in Camarines Sur. Actor Rey Malonzo, reelectionist incumbent mayor of Caloocan City, is losing to Rep. Luis "Baby" Asistio. Reelectionist incumbent Gov. Bong Revilla, a popular actor, is about to lose to his rival, Ireneo Maliksi.

***

Expect the reassignment of top officers at the Philippine National Police (PNP) after the election ban expires on June 14.

My sources in Camp Crame say one of the officers to be affected by the reshuffle is Chief Supt. Enrique Galang, director of Police Regional Office 3 (formerly Recom 3) in Central Luzon. His subordinates have petitioned for Galang's relief.

Galang's wife allegedly interferes in the assignment of personnel at PRO 3 and collects *jueteng* money for her husband.

PNP chief Leandro Mendoza allegedly is angry at Galang and wants him out of PRO 3 as soon as possible.

Namfrel . . . From page A19

PARANAQUE	
As of 4:00 pm	
Mayor	
Marquez	52,074
Olivares	42, 711
Congressman	
Zialcita	16,407
Golez	14,562
MALABON	
As of 5:45 pm, 572 precincts	
Mayor	
Vicencio	45,424
Marcelo	22,522
Congressman	
Sandoval	32,917
Oreta	28,195
NAVOTAS	
As of 5 p.m. based on Comelec count	
Mayor	
Tiangco	10,009
del Rosario	4,116
Muntinlupa	
As of 3:30 p.m.	
Mayor	
Fresnedi	64,537
Masangkay	47,775
Congressmen	
Biazon	52,692
Bunye	51,073
MANDALUYONG	
As of 1:30 p.m.	
Mayor	
Abalos	10,348
Domingo	6,186
Vice Mayor	
Cruz	9,178
Salvador	7,111
Congressman	
Gonzales	6,000
Domingo-Buan	4,438
QUEZON CITY	
As of 12:23 p.m.	
Mayor	
Belmonte	108,732
Fernandez	68,899
Liban	18,733
Vice Mayor	
Bautista	118,559
Angeles	75,940
Congressmen	
District 1	
Calalay	32,577
Samson	17,061
District 2	
Mathay	35,051
Castelo	21,044
District 3	
Defensor	16,522
Coseteng	11,941
Planas	4,562
District 4	
Lagman	7,810
Daza	7,789
Mathay	7,352
PASAY CITY	
As of 4:30 p.m.	
Mayor	
Trinidad	10,206
Santos	5,920
Alcera	5,835
Congressman	
Dy	10,472
Briones	4,607
Webb	4,198
MAKATI CITY	
As of 6 p.m. based on Comelec count	
Mayor	
Binay	1,106
Manzano	792
Vice Mayor	
Barbers	914
Mercado	906
Congressman	
Locsin	1,053
Siguion-Reyna	435
Silverio	266
las pi¥as city	
As of midnight May 15	
based on Comelec count	
Mayor	
Aguilar	15,681
Quilatan	5,083
Congressman	
Aguilar-Villar	9,791
Tamayo	5,083
MARIKINA CITY	
As of 12:30 p.m.	
Mayor	
Fernando	42,076
Candazo	24,323
Vice Mayor	
Andres	34,076
Paulite	12,486
Congressman	
De Guzman	26,687
Farcon	17,193

Wanted: Good Samaritans

MIGUEL Generalao, confined at the National Kidney and Transplant Institute, is in need of blood donors. Donors please proceed to NKTI Blood Bank located at the ground floor (beside the canteen), NKTI Bldg. East Avenue, Quezon City.

SEN. Franklin Drilon plays it harsh on Ping Lacson poster.

EDWIN BACASMAS

'Let's clean up'

BY CHRISTINE AVENDANO

WITH the battle cry "let's clean up" two reelectionist senators led yesterday a drive to rid Metro Manila of the monumental mess caused by the wild and chaotic race for public office.

While doing their bit by tearing down their own campaign posters and those of their rivals, Senators Franklin Drilon and Juan Flavier of the People Power Coalition also urged other candidates to help clean up the surroundings.

With volunteers in tow, Drilon scraped off posters littering the vicinity of the Edsa Shrine on Ortigas City while Flavier took charge at the corner of Commonwealth Avenue and Tandang Sora in Quezon City.

"*Manalo o matalo, maglinis tayo* (win or lose, let's clean our mess)" was Flavier's battle cry.

A statement issued by Flavier the other day said those who ran in the elections "owe" it to the people to restore order around.

At the back of the Edsa Shrine, Drilon tore down his big campaign poster from two posts on the flyover section.

At one point, Drilon even took off the poster of Puwersa ng Masa senatorial candidate Panfilo Lacson.

"I want to do my share in cleaning up the mess and I want to set the example for other candidates to do the same," Drilon told reporters.

A statement issued by the PPC said Drilon, as well as Las Piñas Rep. Manny Villar and Francis Pangilinan, had the most posters among the administration bets during the campaign period.

Pangilinan's posters were said to be more environment-friendly. The PPC said Pangilinan had required that his campaign materials be made of biodegradable material and has turned down donated campaign materials that were made of plastic.

Pangilinan was supposed to join Drilon yesterday in the clean-up drive.

He was, however, advised by his lawyers against showing up following his television appearance the other day which drew the ire of some Comelec officials.

The Comelec had supposedly ruled that candidates were not to have any more media exposure until the election count is through.

FLAVIER
BAYA
BAYA

SEN. Juan Flavier goes up high to do his share.

Another inmate dies of TB inside city jail

BY JEUSA RAFLORES AND
MYLA TORRES

TWO WEEKS after the death of a Manila City jail inmate from tuberculosis, another detainee died from the same disease last Tuesday.

Ferdinand Dabucol, 37, of 278 San Roque St. in Tondo, Manila died from cardio-respiratory failure from TB complications about 1:45 p.m. at the San Lazaro Medical Center in Sta. Cruz where he had been confined for a week.

Last May 4, rape suspect Teodorico Diaz died from TB complications. He also acquired the disease inside the jail.

Dabucol's health was said to have worsened owing to the poor conditions in the congested detention center.

Dabucol complained of breathing difficulties before he was brought to the hospital, according to SPO2 Alfredo Salazar of the city police's homicide section.

Police said Dabucol was undergoing trial for a murder case pending at the Manila Regional trial Court Branch 53. He was accused of stabbing to death his neighbor in 1996.

Dabucol's sister Aida Babon said that her brother did not post the P20,000 bail, even if he could afford to pay the amount.

She said he strongly believed he was innocent of the crime.

Dabucol's body was taken to the Sanctuary Funeral Homes in Sta. Cruz for autopsy.

'I hired armed . . . (From page A19)

cheating allegedly being conducted by the camp of mayoral aspirant Joseph Victor Ejercito.

During a rally in front of the gym, Gonzalez claimed he was deceived into taking in the suspects that is why he is mulling over the filing of "misrepresentation charges" against them.

Gonzalez also admitted he housed the group in the building owned by his brother and promised them food only for a night for their services.

He also said he used the armed group to act as bodyguards during his campaign.

"I was told all political candidates were being given a group of bodyguards to protect them during the election period," Gonzalez claimed. "I used to bring along about four to six members of the group because some people harassed me when I campaigned."

Gonzalez also said the campaign paraphernalia recovered from the group could have come from his house, which was always kept open for the armed group.

But he added the voice tape where he was allegedly quoted as promising to provide for the suspects could have been set up.

In a statement, the Guardians fraternity said the 68 "misguided elements" might belong to a local Guardians chapter not be part of the PGBI national office.

"There are a few factions who failed to be assimilated by the PGBI for one reason or another," the fraternity said. "This includes the chapter to which the 68 members may belong."

It added that bona fide PGBI members are "guided by strict rules and regulations" regarding their individual conduct.

The PGBI is headed by Sen. Gregorio Honasan, who is said to have tried to unify the various factions and chapters of the organization.

Two of its bigger chapters, the Guardians Center Foundation Inc. and the Grand Order of Unified Alliance-both under the Rebolusyonaryong Alyansang Makabansa-also disowned the 68 arrested men.

The fraternity has up to one million members nationwide, with 14 to 25 different chapters. With reports from Nickson Ryan Matias and Rosary Diane Baytion

'Grand Slam' team ahead

ABALOS

TOP incumbent officials of Manda-luyong City appeared headed for a "grand slam" victory yesterday. Partial election results showed the triumvirate of Rep. Neptali Gonzalez Jr., Mayor Benjamin Abalos Jr., and Vice Mayor Jesse Cruz, have established what looked like insurmountable leads over their rivals. Based on Namfrel results, Gonzales was ahead by more than 8,000 votes over Angie Domingo-Buan, who garnered only 5,795 votes as of 3:20 p.m. yesterday. Abalos, who sought the mayoralty against Bibot Domingo for the second time, was in the lead with 13,749 votes. Domingo got only 8,072 votes.

Daboy won't give up

FERNANDEZ

DESPITE the enormous lead of former Speaker Feliciano "Sonny" Belmonte in the Quezon City mayoral race, actor Rudy "Daboy" Fernandez remained hopeful fate would take a detour and eventually end up in his favor. But while Fernandez remained defiant, Rep. Dante Liban, another contender in the mayoral race conceded yesterday to the former House Speaker calling the latter "Mayor Belmonte." Fernandez yesterday vowed to fight it out till the end "to let the voice of the people be heard." He added: "I find no reason to concede. Belmonte is like an eager beaver. It is true he is close to the administration but not to the people." He laughed at Liban for conceding to Belmonte, saying the former congressman "had no votes to speak of in the first place. *Andrea T. Echavez*

Rivals want Atienza out

ATIENZA

REELECTIONIST Manila Mayor Jose "Lito" Atienza yesterday widened his lead over his main rivals, former Manila Mayor Alfredo Lim and former Representative Amado Bagatsing. But Lim and Bagatsing filed yesterday disqualification cases against Atienza for alleged election overspending and violations of the Fair Elections Act. Lim and Bagatsing said that the mayor's miting de avance on May 12 was aired the following day from 6 p.m. to 12 midnight with "only in-house ads or political propaganda and campaign shows." They said that even senatorial candidates of both the administration or opposition parties could not match Atienza's "lavish spending and extravagant rally" although the accused is only running for Mayor of Manila.

Jerome Aning

JV laughing at rivals

EJERCITO

SAN Juan mayoral candidate Joseph Victor Ejercito yesterday described as "illogical" the claim of his rivals who accused his camp of massive fraud in the local elections. Ejercito, son of jailed President Estrada by former actress Guia Gomez, said no one from his camp had to cheat, as they were already winners even when the election period was just starting. "Even before election day came, surveys conducted in San Juan showed the candidates from our party leading 50-70 percent against our opponents. Five days before May 14, the latest survey showed us leading by 59-79 percent," said Ejercito and congressional bet Ronald Zamora in a joint statement. The statement added that initial election results also yielded an almost straight-voting trend in favor of the opposition candidates.

Agnes Donato

Trafficking in people's hopes and vices

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

DURING the last Oscar awards; **Steven Soderbergh**'s film, "Traffic," made a good showing in the fight for top honors, thus getting local movie buffs excited about viewing it.

Well, it's taken months for the film to come to the Philippines. But the movie is set to open here on May 23, so local viewers will soon be able to see what about the film has caused it to merit rave reviews.

An element that has excited viewers abroad is the film's extreme sense of in-your-face realism. In filming "Traffic," Suderbergh used handheld cameras to make things appear like they were really happening in front of viewers. In fact, Soderbergh shot the film himself (under the pseudonym, **Peter Andrews**).

As "total filmmaker," Soderbergh was able to give the movie three different looks, to match the three stories that unfold as the film runs its course.

All three stories are about the underworld of drugs, but they look at the subject from different angles, which are made to interconnect and contrast with each other.

The first story focuses on the source of the drugs, and how they are moved around from place to place. Another angle is on how drugs reach and affect the people who use them.

Finally, the third story focuses on how officers of the law try to curb the rising supply of and demand for these illicit drugs that have such a tragic effect on their users, and on society as a whole.

To achieve greater realism, the film makes use not just of actors, but also of real officials and other people involved in fight against drugs.

For instance, Soderbergh was able to film the activities of drug enforcement agents in San Diego and Washington. One scene features real US senators, congressmen, former government officials and journalists.

The movie's cameras also took shots of actual drug busts at the US-Mexican border, in which actors blended well with real anti-drug agents.

Realism was further enhanced by the movie's use of actual locations, places where the drug trade is conducted to this day. They include San Diego, the border town of Nogales in Mexico, a strip of desert in Las Cruces, the headquarters of the El Paso Intelligence Center, and even the White House.

It was extremely difficult to shoot in these actual locations, but Soderbergh insisted on it because he was after "actuality" filmmaking, above all else. The raves that his film has gotten indicate that he achieved what he wanted.

Going even beyond reality, "Traffic" has been praised for being able to show how drugs betray people's hopes, and drastically abridge their prospects for a happy future.

TV treats

AT 2:30 a.m. and 7:15 p.m. today, May 17, Star Movies screens "The Mercury Project" with **Robert Wagner** and **Marilou Henner**. A Nasa space mission is endangered when its shuttle is damaged while in orbit, rendering it incapable of returning to Earth.

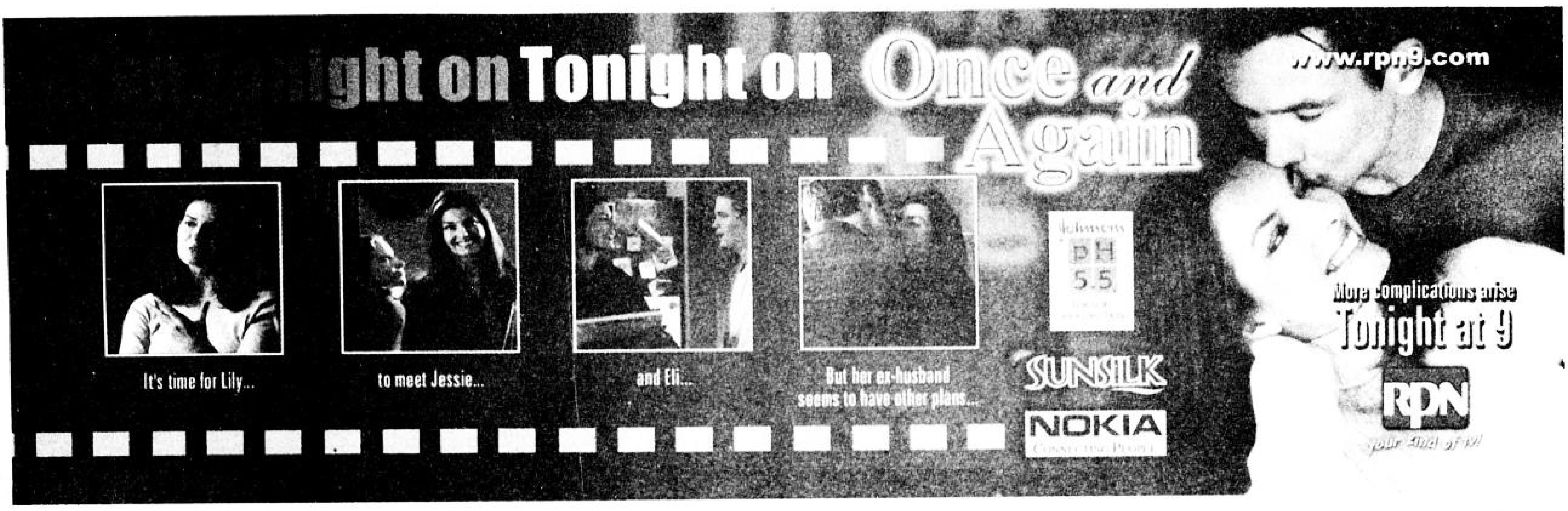
At 8 p.m. on Star World, "Buffy, The Vampire Slayer" telecasts the second episode of its new season of shows.

At 9 p.m. on the National Geographic Channel, "EarthPulse" focuses on **Anna Giordano**, who protects rare birds of prey. Another feature is on eco-volunteer **Saskia van Gent**, who works in Swaziland, helping rangers breed and conserve black and white rhinos. Other portions are on acid rain and compost toilets.

At 9:30 p.m. on the National Geographic Channel, get to know two amazing canines on "Bruno: Police Dog and Honey: Companion Dog." Bruno has twice saved the life of his partner Bill in the line of duty, while Honey helps people both inside and outside a federal prison of women.

'VALENTINE'

Denise Richards and Marley Shelton star in Warner Bros.' new film, "Valentine." The psycho-sexual thriller based on the bestseller by Tom Savage, tells the story of four college girlfriends who ruthlessly humiliate a nerdy kid back in high school. Ten years later, he wreaks his revenge, intending to kill each of the women on Valentine's Day. Also in the cast are Jessica Cauffiel and Jessica Capshaw.



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SM CINEMA GUIDE

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1	DOLBY SURROUND	SOMEONE LIKE YOU
2	DOLBY SURROUND	POSSESSED
3	DOLBY DIGITAL	VALENTINE
4	DOLBY SURROUND	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
5	DOLBY DIGITAL EX	EXIT WOUNDS
6	DOLBY SURROUND	BALIKTARAN
7	DOLBY SURROUND	15 MINUTES
8	DOLBY SURROUND	ORAS NA PARA LUMABAN

SM CENTERPOINT 7140822 • 7161416

1	DOLBY SURROUND	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
2	DOLBY SURROUND	POSSESSED
3	DTS	VALENTINE
4	DOLBY SURROUND	SUGAR & SPICE
5	DOLBY DIGITAL	15 MINNUTES
6	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	BALIKTARAN
7	DOLBY SURROUND	EXIT WOUNDS
8	DOLBY SURROUND	THE MEXICAN
9	DOLBY SURROUND	SOMEONE LIKE YOU
10	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	SAY IT ISN'T SO

SM CITY FAIRVIEW 9350749

1	DOLBY SURROUND	ORAS NA PARA LUMABAN
2	DOLBY SURROUND	THE MEXICAN
3	DOLBY SURROUND	SUGAR AND SPICE
4	DOLBY DIGITAL	VALENTINE
5	DOLBY SURROUND	BALIKTARAN
6	DOLBY SURROUND	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
7	DOLBY DIGITAL	SOMEONE LIKE YOU
8	DOLBY SURROUND	EXIT WOUNDS
9	DOLBY SURROUND	POSSESSED
10	DOLBY SURROUND	15 MINUTES
11	DOLBY SURROUND	SAY IT ISN'T SO
12	DOLBY SURROUND	3,000 MILES TO GRACELAND

SM CITY MANILA 5238240

1	DOLBY DIGITAL	VALENTINE
2	DOLBY DIGITAL	EXIT WOUNDS
3	DOLBY SURROUND	POSSESSED
4	DOLBY SURROUND	SOMEONE LIKE YOU
5	DOLBY DIGITAL	SUGAR & SPICE
6	DOLBY DIGITAL EX	15 MINUTES
7	DOLBY SURROUND	SAY IT ISN'T SO
8	DOLBY SURROUND	THE MEXICAN
9	DOLBY SURROUND	BALIKTARAN
10	DOLBY SURROUND	SWEET NOVEMBER
11	DOLBY SURROUND	THE CROW
12	DOLBY SURROUND	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST

GUADALUPE COMM'L CTR. 8820950

1	ULTRA SURROUND	KUNG LILIGAYA KA
2	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	DIVINO
3	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	POSSESSED

SM MEGAMALL 6331001 • 6329401

1	DOLBY DIGITAL	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
2	DOLBY SURROUND	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
3	DOLBY DIGITAL	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
4	DTS	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
5	DOLBY SURROUND	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
6	DOLBY SURROUND	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
7	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	POSSESSED
8	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	15 MINUTES
9	DOLBY SURROUND	VALENTINE
10	DOLBY SURROUND	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
11	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	SOMEONE LIKE YOU
12	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST

SM CITY NORTH EDSA 9295452

1	DOLBY SURROUND	ORAS NA PARA LUMABAN
2	DOLBY SURROUND	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
3	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	BALIKTARAN
4	DOLBY SURROUND	15 MINUTES
5	DOLBY SURROUND	EXIT WOUNDS
6	DOLBY SURROUND	POSSESSED
7	DTS	SOMEONE LIKE YOU
8	DOLBY DIGITAL	VALENTINE
9	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	SAY IT ISN'T SO
10	DOLBY SURROUND	SUGAR & SPICE
11	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	LUCKY NUMBERS
12	DOLBY SURROUND	THE MEXICAN

SM SOUTHMALL 8066888 • 8066762

1	ULTRA SURROUND	EXIT WOUNDS
2	ULTRA SURROUND	BALIKTARAN
3	DOLBY DIGITAL EX	VALENTINE
4	ULTRA SURROUND	SOMEONE LIKE YOU
5	ULTRA SURROUND	3,000 MILES TO GRACELAND
6	ULTRA SURROUND	SUGAR & SPICE
7	ULTRA SURROUND	ORAS NA PARA LUMABAN
8	DOLBY DIGITAL EX	15 MINUTES
9	ULTRA SURROUND	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
10	ULTRA SURROUND	POSSESSED

TUTUBAN CENTER 2514302

1	ULTRA SURROUND	POSSESSED
2	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	KAILANGAN KO'Y IKAW
3	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
4	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	BALIKTARAN

SM CEBU 2313876

1	DOLBY SURROUND	EXIT WOUNDS
2	ULTRA SURROUND	THE CROW
3	ULTRA SURROUND	SOMEONE LIKE YOU
4	ULTRA SURROUND	EXTREME WARRIORS
5	ULTRA SURROUND	SWEET NOVEMBER
6	ULTRA SURROUND	BALIKTARAN
7	DOLBY SURROUND	3,000 MILES TO GRACELAND

SM ILOILO 3209422

1	ULTRA SURROUND	EXIT WOUNDS
2	ULTRA SURROUND	CLOSED
3	ULTRA SURROUND	SAY IT ISN'T SO
4	ULTRA SURROUND	THE CROW
5	ULTRA SURROUND	SWEET NOVEMBER
6	ULTRA SURROUND	BALIKTARAN
7	ULTRA SURROUND	CLOSED
8	ULTRA SURROUND	HALIK NG SERENA

SM PAMPANGA 7128015

1	DOLBY DIGITAL EX	15 MINUTES
2	DOLBY DIGITAL EX	SAY IT ISN'T SO
3	DOLBY SURROUND	EXIT WOUNDS
4	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	BALIKTARAN
5	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	MINSAN MAY ISANG PUSO
6	DOLBY SURROUND	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST

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GLORIETTA 1 formerly QUAD

1	SPY KIDS
2	VALENTINE
3	THE POSSESSED
4	15 MINUTES

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GLORIETTA 4

1	SOMEONE LIKE YOU in DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
2	15 MINUTES in DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
3	VALENTINE THX in DSD/SDDS/DTS DIGITAL SOUND
4	THE CRIMSON RIVERS (Phil. Premiere) in DTS DIGITAL SOUND Art Film
5	LUCKY NUMBERS in DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
6	SPY KIDS in DTS/SDDS DIGITAL SOUND
7	EXIT WOUNDS in DTS DIGITAL SOUND

GREENBELT

1	VALENTINE in DOLBY STEREO DIGITAL SOUND
2	SPY KIDS in SONY DYNAMIC DIGITAL SOUND
3	SOMEONE LIKE YOU in DOLBY STEREO DIGITAL SOUND
4	MAY 18 - 19 MOTHER TONGUE Onstage

ALABANG TOWN CENTER

1	SPY KIDS THX in DTS/SDDS DIGITAL SOUND
2	SOMEONE LIKE YOU in DSD DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
3	VALENTINE in DTS DIGITAL SOUND
4	THE POSSESSED in DTS DIGITAL SOUND
5	15 MINUTES in DTS DIGITAL SOUND

MMTA

METRO MANILA THEATERS ASSOCIATION

MOVIE GUIDE

NOW SHOWING

EMAIL: mmta@asia.com

Filinvest FESTIVAL CINEMA
(Muntinlupa) tel 850.3571 or 72

1 (DDS)	SPY KIDS
2 (SDDS)	SPY KIDS
3 (DTS)	EXIT WOUNDS
4 GOLD (DTS)	SOMEONE LIKE YOU
5 GOLD (DOLBY)	THE POSSESSED
6 GOLD (SDDS)	DOUBLE TAKE
7 GOLD (DOLBY)	VALENTINE
8 [illegible]	BALIKTARAN
9 [illegible]	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
10 [illegible]	15 MINUTES

Pearl Plaza Cinemas
(Parañaque) tel. 853.4486

1	
2	SAVE THE LAST DANCE
3 (DTS)	THE MEXICAN
4	
5	
6 (DTS)	
Golden Pearl THX	

Masagana CINEMAX 1-2 & 3
(Kalaw) tel 536.4315

1 (DOLBY)	
2 (DTS)	KUNG LILIGAYA KA . . .
3	THE GIFT

Masagana CINEMA
(Pasay) tel 831.6603

1	BALIKTARAN
2	KUNG LILIGAYA KA . .
3	ORAS NA PARA LUMABAN

starmall Movies
(Shaw Blvd.) tel 724.4986

1	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
2	SPY KIDS
3	15 MINUTES
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	VALENTINE
5	ORAS NA PARA LUMABAN

Metropolis
(Alabang) tel 543.4001

1	BALIKTARAN
2	ORAS NA PARA LUMABAN
3	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
4	RESERVE
5	POSSESSED
6	SPY KIDS
7	VALENTINE
8	MORTAL ENEMY

LOUIE'S CINEMA THX
(Makati City) tel 751.2010 / 892.3349

1	VALENTINE

Center Plaza Cinema
(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007

1	SWEET NOVEMBER
2	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST

FCM FAIRVIEW CENTER MALL, INC
tel 930.9515

1	ART OF WAR
2	GET CARTER
3	RESERVE

Spring
(Libertad, Pasay City) tel 831.7864

1	KUNG LILIGAYA KA . . .
A	DIVINO, ANAK NI TOTOY MOLA

Sunshine
(FTI, Taguig) tel 838.4301 loc. 3376

1	
2	BALIKTARAN
3	
4	

GOTESCO CINEMA

City
(Manila) tel 734.8588

1 (DOLBY)	SPY KIDS
2	RESERVE
3	RESERVE
4	BALIKTARAN
5	ORAS NA PARA LUMABAN
6	POSSESSED
7 (DTS)	SOMEONE LIKE YOU
8 (SDDS)	VALENTINE
9 (DOLBY)	15 MINUTES

Caloocan
tel 362.3508

2	ORAS NA PARA LUMABAN

Grand Central
(Caloocan) tel 364.3781

1	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
2	BALIKTARAN
3	ORAS NA PARA LUMABAN
4 (SDDS)	SPY KIDS
5	POSSESSED
6 (DOLBY)	SPY KIDS
7 (DTS)	VALENTINE
8	RESERVE
9	RESERVE

Commonwealth
tel 951.0083

1 (DTS)	VALENTINE
2	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
3	SPY KIDS
4	BALIKTARAN
5 (SDDS)	POSSESSED
6	ORAS NA PARA LUMABAN
7 (DOLBY)	EXIT WOUNDS
8	RESERVE

Ortigas
tel 656.6795

1	SPY KIDS
2	BALIKTARAN
3 (DTS)	ORAS NA PARA LUMABAN
4	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
5 (SDDS)	EXIT WOUNDS

Universal
(Manila) tel 733.2470

1	ORAS NA PARA LUMABAN

Sampaquita
(Cubao) tel 911.7888

1	ORAS NA PARA LUMABAN

Dilson
(Manila) tel 734.7724

Dilson
Lords
Jennet

MARKETPLACE Mandaluyong
tel 533.3851 / 533.3856

1	VALENTINE
2	ORAS NA PARA LUMABAN
3	RESERVE
4	SPY KIDS

Prima
(Pasig) tel 641.1215

1	
2	DIVINO ANAK NI TOTOY MOLA

Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto
SUPER CINERAMA tel 733.4238

1 (DOLBY)	SPY KIDS
2	VALENTINE
3	POSSESSED
4	ORAS NA PARA LUMABAN
5	BALIKTARAN

New Divisoria Mall
CINEMA tel 244.4619

1	ORAS NA PARA LUMABAN
2	SPY KIDS
3	THEY NEST
4	DIVINO, ANAK NI TOTOY MOLA
5	RESERVE
6	KUNG LILIGAYA KA

Baclaran LRT
CINEMA tel 512.0115

1 (DOLBY)	BALIKTARAN
2	ORAS NA PARA LUMABAN
3	DIVINO, ANAK NI TOTOY MOLA
4	
5	

Cinema 2000 Target Mall
(Sta. Rosa Laguna)
tel (049) 534.2185 / 534.2198

1	SUGAR & SPICE
2	EXTREME WARRIORS
3 (DTS)	SPY KIDS

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383

1	ANTI TRUST
2 (DTS)	SUGAR & SPICE
3 (DOLBY)	SPY KIDS
4	BALIKTARAN

Llanas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276

1 (SDDS)	VALENTINE
2	POSSESSED
3	DIVINO, ANAK NI TOTOY MOLA
4 (DTS)	KUNG LILIGAYA KA

Llanas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202

1 (DOLBY)	SPY KIDS
2	BALIKTARAN
3 (DTS)	ANTI TRUST
4	SUGAR & SPICE
5	ATTACK FORCE

Olivarez Tri-Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.8883

1	ANTI TRUST
2	SPY KIDS
3	SUGAR & SPICE

Olivarez Los Baños
tel (049) 536.5101

1	ANTI TRUST
2	SPY KIDS
3	WEDDING PLANNER

Olivarez Tagaytay
tel (046) 413.0311

1	PURPLE STORM
2	WEDDING PLANNER
3	DIVINO ANAK NI TOTOY MOLA

Morales Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.9736

1	SPY KIDS
2	ANTI TRUST
3	EXTREME WARRIORS

Cabuyao
(Laguna City) tel (049) 531.4808

1 (DTS)	EXTREME WARRIORS
2 (DTS)	RESERVE

Fourstep
(Cavite) tel (046) 416.2385

1	EXIT WOUNDS

Emperor
(Rosario Cavite) tel (046) 438.1657

1	EXTREME WARRIOR
2	EXIT WOUNDS
3	BALIKTARAN

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790

1	TAONG X
2	LUCKY NUMBERS
3	SAY IT ISN'T SO
4	SUGAR & SPICE

Berma
tel 879.2168

1	THEY NEST
2	DIVINO ANAK NI TOTOY MOLA

CitiMall
(Parañaque) tel 820.7269

1	
2	BALIKTARAN
3	
4	

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03

1 [illegible]	15 MINUTES
2	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
3	SUGAR & SPICE
4 (DTS ES)	SAY IT ISN'T SO

*Movies are subject to change without prior notice

THX DOLBY dts SDDS

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Robinson's Place
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Digital film, music, poetry at the CCP

THE CULTURAL Center of the Philippines, in cooperation with Filmless Films, presents "Digital Sunsets By the Bay," at the Manila Film Center (CCP Liwasang Paraiso, Roxas Blvd).

"Digital Sunsets" is a digital film, music and poetry event starting at sunset (5 p.m.) for 3 consecutive Sundays—May 20, May 27 and June 3.

During these three days, Filmless Films premieres their digital features: "Sex, Drugs and Electronica," "Datgilab" and "Greaseman."

Prior to this main event, Avant-Pop Music presents musicians and poets from its album, "Indie:Yo," the next wave of Pinoy pop.

The event also features a performance poet and a poetry slam (a spoken word mock-olympics).

On the last Sunday, Anima Animé presents a special screening of the Japanese underground hit, "April Story."

Featured on May 20 is poet Vincenz Serrano, Milkbar and The Purplechickens bands, singer-songwriter Lille Bose, performance poet Triccia David and rave music from DJ Surprise.

On May 27, featured are poet Kris Lacaba, Talula Craft and Sherweenies bands, performance poet Vim Nadera and world music by Makiling Ensemble.

Performing on June 3 are poet Edge, Big T, Stonefree and Neotaku bands, performance poet Lourd De Veyra and swing music from Radioactive Sago Project.

Admission to all the events is free.

For sponsorships, contact the Oracafe Multimedia Arts Company at 928-8323, 921-8434, 0917-4511387 or e-mail oracafe@rocketmail.com.

ROBINSONS MOVIE WORLD

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http://www.robinsonsmovieworld.com

NOW SHOWING

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ERMITA 536-7809-14

1. SPY KIDS
2. 15 MINUTES
3. BALIKTARAN
4. SUGAR & SPICE
5. THE POSSESSED
6. VALENTINE
7. SOMEONE LIKE YOU

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1. SPY KIDS
2. VALENTINE
3. THE POSSESSED
4. 15 MINUTES
5. NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
6. BALIKTARAN

BACOLOD (034)441-0453

1. EXIT WOUNDS
2. RECESS
3. SAY IT ISN'T SO
4. NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
5. HALIK NG SIRENA
6. SWEET NOVEMBER

DOLBY dts SDDS

MOVIE GUIDE

ARANETA CENTER THEATERS 911-3101

ALI MALL CINEPLEX-1	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-2	BALIKTARAN
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-3 (DDS)	VALENTINE
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-4 (SDDS)	SPY KIDS
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-5 (DTS)	15 MINUTES
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-6 (DOLBY)	THE POSSESSED
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-7 (DOLBY)	EXIT WOUNDS
FARMERS PLAZA-1 (DOLBY)	SPY KIDS
FARMERS PLAZA-2 (DOLBY)	15 MINUTES
FIESTA CARNIVAL	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
NEW FRONTIER	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
MANILA	
EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	KAMANDAG NG ROSAS / OBJECT OF OBSESION
ODEON	VALENTINE
ODEON-2	POSSESSED
ROBEN	DIVINO, ANAK NI TOTOY MOLA
TANDEM-1	KUNG LILIGAYA KA
TANDEM-2	ALIPIN NG TUKSO
TIMES	MS CONGENIALITY / DEMON GATE
QUEZON CITY	
ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	CLOSED
ACT-4	CLOSED
CORONET-2	ORAS NA PARA LUMABAN
QUEZON-1	DIVINO, ANAK NI TOTOY MOLA
REMAR	DIVINO, ANAK NI TOTOY MOLA
REMAR-2	KUNG LILIGAYA KA
CUBAO	
OCEAN SUPERAMA	BABAENG PUTIK
OCEAN CINEMA-A	PANABLA
OCEAN CINEMA-B	CRISELDA
MANDALUYONG CITY	
SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	CLOSED
CINEMA-2	VALENTINE
CAINTA RIZAL	
STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-54091 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	KUNG LILIGAYA KA . . .
CINEMA-2	BALIKTARAN
CINEMA-3	ORAS NA PARA LUMABAN
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	LUCKY NUMBERS
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	SUGAR & SPICE
CINEMA-6	THE MEXICAN
CINEMA-7	DIVINO, ANAK NI TOTOY MOLA
CINEMA-8	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	VALENTINE
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	15 MINUTES
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	SPY KIDS
CINEMA-12	SOMEONE LIKE YOU
CINEMA-14	THE POSSESSED
CINEMA-15	EXIT WOUNDS
LORES	
CINEMA-2	CLOSED
CINEMA-3	CLOSED
POWER PLANT CINEMA	
CINEMA-1	VALENTINE
CINEMA-2	15 MINUTES
CINEMA-3	SOMEONE LIKE YOU
CINEMA-4	THE POSSESSED
CINEMA-5	EXIT WOUNDS
CINEMA-6	SPY KIDS

Hard Rock presents 'Music for Life'

UNWIND, relax and sit back while enjoying alternative rhythm in "Music for Life," presented by 96.3 Wrock and Hard Rock Café.

The selection of the series offers diverse choices ranging from retro to folk rock to classic mellow rock to Latin pop. It's anything and everything that deviates from the usual pop, dance and R&B genres which Hardrock habitues enjoy during party hours.

Band lineup for this month: Acoustic Jive on Mondays, Sabor Latino on Tuesdays, Asciano Mixx on Wednesdays, Pido with Take One on Thursdays (May 24 and 31) and 9MM on Fridays.

Show starts 8:30 p.m. For inquiries, call Hard Rock at 893-4661 to 64.

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Starring:
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David Boreanaz
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MAY 17 - Thursday
Louie's will be closed from 6:00 PM to 10:30 PM to give way to a special event schedule.
11:10 PM - Valentine

The Mummy Returns
May 23 - Wednesday

GET A COPY of the 4th issue of Pelikula: A Journal of Philippine Cinema featuring WOMEN IN CHINA

Pelikula is one of the beneficiary projects of the LRP Foundation, published jointly with the U-P College of Mass Communication.

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ENTERTAINMENT

LOUIE C. CAMINO, Editor

'SOMEONE LIKE YOU'

A naïve take on relationships

BY RUBEN CRUZ JR.

REVIEW

IT'S a no-brainer: "Someone Like You" is a date film. And when you get to see it, you find out that that pretty much is all it is. To paraphrase a tired line said by the heroine: What you see is what you get.

"Someone Like You" tries to be poignant and witty, but for the most part only manages to be cute. It's able to elicit a few generous laughs and smiles.

For those who happen to have guys of their own, the film could be used as an excuse to draw some rare insights from their men during their téte-à-tétes. Whatever the case, the ensuing discussion would probably be trivial because the movie's take on relationships is naïve and offers nothing significant.

"Someone Like You" stereotypes men and women the way a grocer puts his goods in their appropriate shelves. There are two male protagonists in the film. One is a cad disguised as a nice guy. He's not afraid to express his emotions, he says all the right things, and he treats women in the most gentlemanly way.

The film's female lead, TV Talk Show producer Jane Goodale falls for him instantly. She's thirtyish and single and, apart from her work, seems to spend the rest of her time theorizing why she's . . . well . . . thirtyish and single.

Heartbroken, homeless

So why wouldn't she fall for this rice guy, right? Never mind that they work together, the guy, Ray Brown (Greg Kinnear), being her executive producer. Nowadays, the adage, "don't get your meat where you make your bread" doesn't seem so relevant anymore, anyway. Never mind that Ray has a girlfriend of three years and that he seems not the least bit bothered about doing things behind her back.

Jane and Ray make plans to live together but the he gets conscience-stricken (finally!) and backs out of the arrangement just when Jane is set to move out of her apartment.

Heartbroken and homeless, Jane turns to the second male protagonist, her other co-worker, Eddie (Hugh Jackman), and asks him if she could share his apartment.

Eddie's a man's man in the mold of Mel Gibson's character in "What Women Want." He beds all the women he lusts after and they all end up hating him. Oh, but there's a reason for him being this way, the film argues. He was scarred by a previous relationship, when his one true love abandoned him. Go figure.

Messed up

Where do they come up with these characters! I've never read Laura Zigman's novel "Animal Husbandry" which is supposedly the basis for the screenplay (written by Elizabeth Chandler), but it would probably be an interesting prequel to the relationship, fix-it book "Men Are From Mars, Women Are From Venus."

"Animal Husbandry" could be a good book but, maybe, as in a lot of cases, the demands of Hollywood messed up its adaptation to film.

What inference can we get from Jane's character in the film? That most single, thirtysomething women are desperate enough to confine their choice of men between a dishonest weakling and an unabashed womanizer? I'd take the women of "Sex in the City" anytime. At least they're empowered.

By the way, I'm sorry for letting the cat out of the bag by hinting that Jane falls for Eddie eventually. But if you haven't known that by now or deduced as much from the film's trailer and print ads, then this movie is definitely for someone like you.

Pulled down

Incidentally, there is a third man in the film who provides Jane a glimpse of her ideal mate but he is made to look inept and unexciting in his few moments onscreen before we get to appreciate his saving grace-his steadfast love as a husband to Jane's sister.

Another thing that pulls the film down, aside from poor characters, is its unfocused plot development. It's supposed to be a love story. But instead of concentrating on the brewing attraction between Eddie and Jane, the movie gets snagged on the her attempt to cope with her heartbreak over Ray.

The film is only an hour and a half or so but it seems longer because of the tedious efforts to justify Jane's cynical view on men and relationships.

We see Jane poring herself over a research project and coming up with a "new cow theory" that claims men are like bulls: Once they've mated with a cow, they lose interest.

Although this is one of the comic ingredients of the movie, the real joke is how the filmmakers make it out as a startling discovery, one which offers Jane the opportunity to branch out to print by writing a trend-setting sex column for a men's magazine. Come on! Men like variety—that's supposed to be original?

When the film finally settles on Eddie and Jane, there aren't enough

JUDD

JACKMAN

tender moments between them to justify the conclusion. Although one anticipates that the two would sooner or later end up in each other's arms, the ending seems more contrived than developed.

Jackman a revelation

It's nice to see Judd in a romantic role for a change and she's really quite charming in the film. As for Kinnear, after "As Good As It Gets" made his acting career, he seems to just keep getting better. Ellen Barkin, as talk show host and Jane's boss Diane Roberts, lights up the few scenes she is in, even besting the main actors in some of them.

Another scene-stealer is Oscar winner (Best Supporting Actress for "My Cousin Vinny") Marissa Tomei who's given another secondary role as Jane's equally loveless gal pal, Liz. Can someone get this girl back to playing lead again?

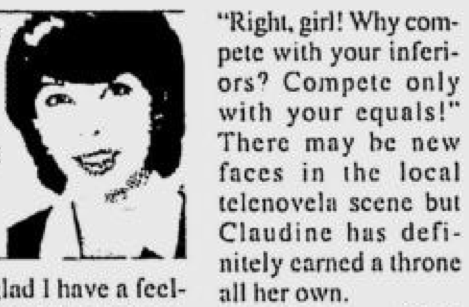
A revelation is Jackman, who last played Wolverine in "X-Men." Jackman is another bloke in a long list of blokes from Australia who have captured the fancy of audiences with their unaffected onscreen presence (the others include Mel Gibson, Russell Crowe, Guy Pierce, Heath Ledger). Jackman's performance in the film brings to mind what a young Clint Eastwood would have been like as a romantic lead.

I've just about had it with romance films that try to deconstruct every essential element of a relationship. "Someone Like You" is another one of this kind.

As Eddie said in the film, "Do we have to have another post-mortem?" The answer could very well be a line from the film as well: "*Ad nauseam, ad infinitum.*"

Dingdong's "G.A."

DOLLYWOOD



Dolly Anne Carvajal

PARTY people relayed to me that **Dingdong Dantes** is often seen with a pretty, long-haired, lanky *colegiala* whose initials are G.A.

They said there was even a time when Dingdong's group clashed with a wild bunch of guys who are notorious in the club circuit and it was G.A who intervened so that Dingdong would be spared. Could G.A. stand for Guardian Angel? Is Dingdong in 7th heaven with her?

Bits & pieces

- What's the real score between **Hans Montenegro** and **Jackie Forster**? Now that it's the aftermath of the Jackie-**Janno Gibbs** brouhaha, will Jackie's closeness to Hans spark another controversy in her life? What a coincidence that both Hans and she are making a show biz comeback. Talk about being back with a bang.
- Preparations for the **Aga Muchlach-Charlene Gonzales** wedding are all hush-hush, which only serves to heighten the public's curiosity and excitement. One teeny-weeny tip I got is that one of the songs that the couple requested to be sung at their wedding is South Border's "Kahit Kailan." Let the lyrics of that soulful love song say the rest.
- Speaking of weddings, I cornered **Claudine Barretto** when I bumped into her at our favorite spa/gym Planet Fitness. "When will there be wedding bells for **Rico Yan** and you?" She chuckled. "Yikes! We're not thinking about it yet. Although now we're starting a movie with a tentative title, 'Wedding Photographer.' For a change, light *muna na* movie. *Tipong* 'Wedding Planner.'" The soap opera queen welcomes the momentary shift. "*Puro* heavy drama *na* my scenes in 'Hanggang sa Dulo ng Walang Hanggan' so I'm glad I have a feel-good movie project." Her role in the daily soap is emotionally draining as it is and she still has to contend with the intrigues that people behind other soap operas concoct. "I don't know why the drumbeaters of other soap opera stars are trying so hard to pull me down. They have their style, I have my own. I don't like to compete 'cause when you get so obsessed about the competition you fail to do your job well." I countered, "Right, girl! Why compete with your inferiors? Compete only with your equals!" There may be new faces in the local telenovela scene but Claudine has definitely earned a throne all her own.
- If plans didn't miscarry, **Judy Ann Santos** would have spent her birthday in Cebu. The last time I saw her I was shocked to see she was so slim she was almost unrecognizable. She let me in on her secret: "All I eat is pineapple, though in the morning I take soup and crackers. I need to be trim *para* believable *na-man ako sa* role *ko na* boxer. I'm shooting a movie now with **Piolo Pascual** and **Jeffrey Quizon** with the working title 'Ang Boksingera, Ang Maton at ang Bading.' *At* feel *ko* now mag-sleeveless *parati. Dami ko binili na* sleeveless tops. *Sayang naman.*" Oh well. No matter how thin you get, Juday, you'll always be a box-office heavyweight. Happy Birthday, amiga!

Live bands

LIVEBANDS.com.ph, the reference for local bands and music venues in the Philippines and a finalist in the prestigious 2000 Philippine Web awards, is happy to announce that it can now be accessed through Globe & Smart cell phones. Check out this excellent website at www.livebands.com.ph and get instructions on how to get the gig schedules of your favorite bands and bars. Enough of the election party list. Let's party on!

Personal "B," congrats for a job well done during the elections. In my book, you're the winner!

For feedback, e-mail *wateringhole2000@yahoo.com*

SHOWBIZ STARS IN POLITICS

YES!
MOTHER
At home with Sharon Cuneta & Family

Show biz stars in politics in latest issue of Yes! mag

THE LATEST issue of Yes! has a special report on "Show biz Stars in Politics," a full 13-page spread on film and TV personalities running for positions.

Yes! tapped IPER—the Institute for Political and Electoral Reform—to do research and interviews. Over a period of five weeks, researchers trooped to where the celebrity candidates were to get their side on issues raised against them.

To ensure that the information is factual, the team crosschecked claims, verified statistics and consulted the appropriate resource persons.

The result? Profiles and performance evaluations of stars, namely Nora Aunor, Vilma Santos, Lito Lapid, Rey Malonzo, Bong Revilla, Lani Mercado, Richard Gomez, Kuh Ledesma, Joey Marquez, Edu Manzano, Rudy Fernandez and Noli de Castro.

The special report also cites an IPER study on the behavior of the Filipino electorate. Results of the psycho-graphic study indicate the reasons a voter elects a candidate. In order of importance, the reasons are: 1) popularity 2) clan, family and peer influence 3) track record and 4) program and platform.

Yes! editor in chief Jo-Ann Maglipon writes in her editor's note, that the celebrity candidates may not like the special report.

"The end result may or may not be pleasant for the stars running, but that is neither here nor there. We called it as we saw it. And we had one intent alone: to provide voters information with which to make the best choices at the polls."

Yes! is available at magazine shops, National and Goodwill Bookstores, Filbars, supermarkets and covered newsstands.

Icebox joins Metropop 2001

ICEBOX, the eclectic but talented band that's been making waves in the local music scene, marks another milestone in their thriving career when they join this year's Metro Manila Pop Song Festival.

The group is set to interpret the novelty song "Ayoko sa Pakipot," composed by Noel Mahinay.

Known for their fun way of performing onstage, Icebox is composed of Red Gonzales on lead guitar, Roland Roque on base, Ganni Valenzuela on keyboards, Ro Reyed and Bro. Ispayk on vocals and Zachary Nuñez on drums.

The Metropop Song Festival is slated May 27 and will be aired on GMA 7.

POWER PLANT CINEMA
Rockwell Center, Makati City ☎ Tel. No: 8981440-41 DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX

1 VALENTINE - R 18 1:00, 3:15, 5:30, 7:45, 10:00	2 15 MINUTES - R 18 12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 10:00	3 SOMEONE LIKE YOU - P 13 1:30, 3:40, 5:50, 8:00, 10:10
4 THE POSSESSED - P 13 11:25, 1:55, 4:25, 6:55, 9:30	5 EXIT WOUNDS - R 18 12:45, 2:55, 5:05, 7:15, 9:30	6 SPY KIDS - G 12:00, 2:00, 4:00, 6:00, 8:00, 10:00

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Preview of Charlene's romantic side

WITH a few days to go before her much-awaited altar date with matinee idol Aga Muhlach, Charlene Gonzales takes time to pose for Preview magazine.

She graces the cover of the fashion glossy wearing a Tracy Reese fully sequined camisole top and matching bias-cut shirt, giving readers a Preview of the regal sight she would be on her wedding day.

On the cover story, Charlene tells Preview what she can't tolerate in relationships. "I can't stand mistrust and someone who breaks loyalty. That's very hard for me to accept because it takes a lot for me to fall in love."

But Charlene discloses that when she finds love, she gives her whole heart. "When I love somebody, I really love that person."

Not too many know that the host of "Keep on Dancing" is also a painter.

"I love to paint," says Charlene. "I do oil paintings, sometimes of still life, but mostly abstracts, things that just come to my mind," the artist elaborates.

She dances. She paints. She's a true romantic.

Get to know more about Charlene Gonzales, the woman who brought the country's ultimate heartthrob down on one knee.

Other features: spotlight on UK's hip brand Topshop, traveling in Slovenia, the dos and don'ts of Manila's party scene, fashion inspired by the '60s, '70s and '80s and fantastic makeovers of Vina Morales, Jeanette McBride and Christine Bersola.

Preview also investigates the seeming preference for the *mestiza* look in advertising and fashion circles.

Not to be missed is the "Fashion Police" section, which is steadily growing to be the favorite of many readers. This time, the fashion critics evaluate the outfits of singers Dulce, Antoinette

Preview
P100
A Get-Gorgeous Beauty Special!
128 beauty secrets, finds and steals
PLUS Your Ultimate Spa Guide & Major Lowdown for Lighter, Flawless Skin
Can You Spell V-I-P? How to make it to the city's most exclusive guest lists
CELEBRITY MAKEOVERS
Totally recreating Janette McBride, Vina Morales, and Tintin Bersola
Rising & Falling St...
Piolo Pascual, Ara Mina, & Kristine Hermosa —on their way up...or out?
Fortune's Favorite?
How Charlene Gonzales brought showbiz's ultimate heartthrob down on one knee!
Over 88 absolute fashion ... & style spruces

Taus, Jolina Magdangal, Geneva Cruz and Cris Villonco.

A Summit publication, Preview is now available at magazine shops, National and Goodwill Bookstores, specialty shops and boutiques.

For subscription inquiries, contact 536-7450 (for Metro Manila), 032-4125566 or 67 (Visayas) and 082-221-6226 or 27 (Mindanao).

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THE CRIMSON RIVERS
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BUSINESS

RAUL O. MARCELO, Editor ■ CORRIE S. NARISMA, Assistant Editor

San Miguel offers to buy Tanduay

By Doris C. Dumlao

AFTER gobbling up Coca-Cola Bottlers Philippines and food manufacturer Pure Foods Corp., San Miguel Corp. is setting its sights on at least two other acquisition targets, both engaged in hard liquor manufacturing.

Industry sources said SMC has offered to buy dominant rum maker Tanduay Holdings Inc. from the group of taipan Lucio Tan for P13 billion to P16 billion.

The sources told the INQUIRER that the food and beverage giant was also considering buying niche player Consolidated Distillers of the Far East Inc., maker of Emperador Brandy and owned by the family of real estate magnate Andrew Tan.

SMC believes that Tanduay and Emperador Brandy will help complete the product line of its hard liquor subsidiary, La Tondeña Distillers Inc.

While LTDI has been strong in the gin business, it has never been able to significantly penetrate the market for rum business. Tanduay, for its part, has maintained a strong market share in the rum business, particularly in southern Philippines.

The sources, however, said that the negotiations were highly confidential and that neither group was ready to officially disclose anything. But the sources said it was not far-fetched for cash-awashed SMC to be able to hatch a deal in the near future.

Tanduay has total assets of P4.7 billion and a market capitalization of more than P18 billion as of end-2000. LTDI, for its part, has an asset base of P15.5 billion but this will be significantly reduced due to the transfer of its non-liquor business to Coca-Cola Bottlers Philippines Inc.

LTDI is now trying to compensate for the big chunk of its business that was transferred to CCBPI, which was recently reacquired by SMC.

A merger between LTDI and Tanduay, analysts said, would likely create the undisputed giant in the local distilled spirits sector, combining the two companies' strengths.

In the case of Emperador Brandy, the sources said SMC has yet to "lay an offer on the table but that talks were now ongoing." They said SMC believed that Emperador Brandy was worth around P500 million.

Brandy was among the products the SMC group has yet to tap. The sources said LTDI was set to introduce a brandy line very soon.

Acquisition is part of a four-pronged expansion strategy mapped out by the SMC group for LTDI. The others include venturing into the following:

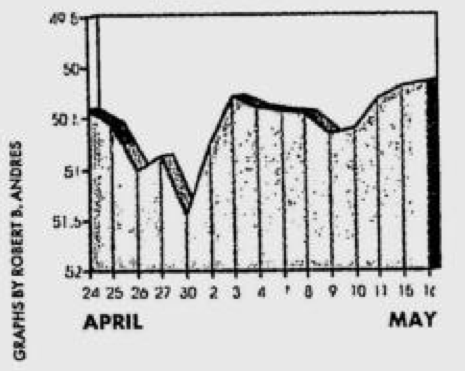
- Condiments such as vinegar which is a P2-billion industry; catsup, a P3-billion business; Vetsin (P2 billion) and Soy Sauce (P3 billion), since raw materials for these products include alcohol tails and other outputs from alcohol processing;
- High growth segments in the liquor business like alcoholic soda and brandy, which have a combined industry revenue of P2 billion, and,
- Distribution of red and white wines.

SMC OFFERS/ B2

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES

PESO - DOLLAR



Peso-Dollar Rate

₱50.14 = $1
As of 5 p.m., May 16, 2001

¥123.74 = $1
The US dollar was trading at 123.74 as of 5 p.m., May 16, 2001

GOLD:$269.80/270.30
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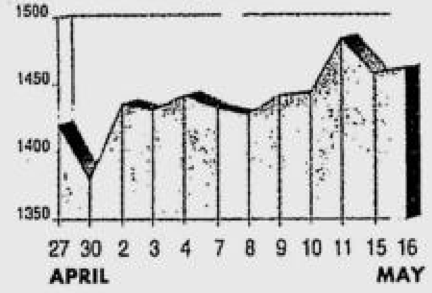
STOCK MARKET

PSE Composite Index



(See stock market report on Page B2)

Shares up

SHARES closed slightly higher yesterday on bargain-hunting as the market awaited results of the mid-term elections, which market watchers hope will give President Macapagal-Arroyo a mandate for reforms, traders said.

The 30-company Philippine Stock Exchange Index closed 3.82 points, or 0.3 percent, higher at 1,461.79. The modest buying followed the 1.8-percent loss in the main index the previous day on caution ahead of the election results.

The election is seen as a key test of support for Macapagal's fledgling administration. Early vote counts show that her party may gain a majority in the Senate. The election outcome is expected later this week. *AP*

Philweb posts profits

BARELY a year in business, Philweb.Com Inc. posted a net income of P1.17 million from gross revenues of P26.6 million in the first quarter defying the downtrend in the dotcom industry here and worldwide.

In its report to the SEC, Philweb said its operating expenses, including depreciation, amounted to P25.5 million during the quarter. No income taxes have been provided for, as Philweb is a Board of Investments-registered pioneer, IT enterprise registered and is therefore exempted from income taxes for up to eight years.

The year 2000 was recorded as a pre-operating year for Philweb, as it established its nationwide network of Internet switching centers. Commercial operations actually commenced in January 2001.

ATI revenues hit ₱874M

ASIAN Terminals Inc. has reported first quarter revenues of P874 million, 12 percent higher than last year's level.

The difficult business conditions during the first quarter slowed down the movement of general and bulk cargoes but container- and logistics-related volumes made up for the deficit. The performance was likewise attributed to the increase in cargo handling tariff rate which took effect last Feb. 1.

Operating profit increased to P215.8 million in the first quarter 2001. Better results could have been achieved if it were not for the high interest rates that still affected bottom line results despite the company's strong balance sheet. Net income for the first quarter 2001 amounted to P78 million.

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Gov't slashes bid price for PNCC to ₱5B

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

THE PRIVATIZATION and Management Office (PMO) has scaled down the indicative bid price for the government's majority interest in Philippine National Construction Corp. in order to attract more buyers in the toll way operator's bidding in the fourth quarter this year.

PMO chief Renato B. Valdecantos said the new price for the government's 80-percent stake in PNCC was now pegged at P5 billion from P7 billion.

The bid price was lowered in order to attract more investors who have been turned off by the government's steep price during PNCC's failed bidding last year.

Strategic Alliance Development Corp. (Stradec) and Korean pharmaceutical giant Dong-A gave the highest bid of P1.228 billion for the PNCC shares but it was rejected by the Committee on Privatization because it was 82 percent off the indicative bid price of P7 billion.

Other bidders in PNCC were less optimistic on the company's valuation—the Pacific Infrastructure Development International group led by Fritz Server (RFM vice president and Home Cable president) offered P536.888 million and the group of Philippine Exporters Confederation president Sergio Ortiz-Luis and Korea Asia Assets submitted a bid of only P420 million.

The reduced asking price for PNCC, however, is still nearly double the P2.6 billion asset value of the company as shown in the audit conducted by the Development Bank of the Philippines and Punongbayan & Araullo. The government reckoned that PNCC deserves a premium over its asset value because of toll way franchise which will expire on 2007 but is renewable for another 30 years.

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'Big 3' keeping oil prices at current levels

By Ronnel W. Domingo

MAJOR players in the local oil industry yesterday said they have no plans of raising their prices this month despite statements by new players that they were anticipating an 80-centavo to P1 per liter hike in the next two to three weeks.

Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corp. vice president Reynaldo Gamboa said in a telephone interview that the company has no definite plans of raising its prices within the month.

"We are still looking at the movements in world crude prices and the peso-dollar exchange rate," Gamboa said.

Leading local refiner Petron said it was also still monitoring the market.

A source from Caltex Philippines Inc. said the company was not sure whether they will have price movements within the month.

"We may or may not adjust our prices, but if ever, it would be in small increments," the source said.

However, the Caltex source said, "If we look at the Mean of Platts Singapore, which moved up by a peso, there should be a (price increase)."

The MOPS is the benchmark used by local importers and retailers in setting their pump prices.

Caltex last increased its pump prices by five centavos per liter in February. Shell and Petron, however, did not follow suit.

New Petroleum Players Association of the Philippines president Fernando L. Martinez earlier said members of his group were expecting a price hike in two to three weeks.

The NPPA chief said the cost of importing fuel rose significantly due to the depreciation of the peso against the dollar.

Philippine Stock Exchange

(As of Wednesday, May 16, 2001)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Asiatrust Dev. Bank Inc.	5.6	5.6	5.6	5.6	50,000
Bank of the Phil. Islands	79	79	78.5	79	364,500
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	44.5	45.5	44.5	45	127,000
First E-Bank Corp.	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7	1,000
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	210	213	209	213	124,000
Philippine National Bank	50	52.5	50	50.5	157,800
Phil. Savings Bank	28.5	29.5	28.5	29.5	500
Security Bank Corp.	20	20.25	20	20.25	11,000
Union Bank of the Phil.	24.5	25	24.5	25	4,900
FINANCIAL SERVICE					
Bankard Inc.	1.48	1.52	1.48	1.52	298,000
First Metro Invest. Corp.	225	240	224	224	900
Manulife Financial Corp.	1275	1275	1270	1275	1,690
Sun Life Financial Serv.	1035	1045	1035	1040	13,260
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
Abs-Cbn Broadcasting Corp.	40	41	40	41	16,300
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	0.44	0.45	0.44	0.44	1,820,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	690	690	685	685	2,520
Piltel	0.51	0.52	0.51	0.52	60,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	715	725	715	715	70,090
Philweb.Com Inc.	0.046	0.046	0.045	0.046	60,200,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	43	43	42.5	42.5	14,900
Manila Electric Co. B	58.5	59	58	58	41,200
Petron Corp.	1.78	1.82	1.78	1.8	2,107,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals, Inc.	1.18	1.2	1.18	1.2	32,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	1.7	1.7	1.62	1.64	10,184,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Union Cement Corp.	1.04	1.1	1.04	1.04	409,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Cosmos Bottling Corp.	3.1	3.1	3.1	3.1	77,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	13.5	13.5	13.25	13.25	43,000
La Tondena Distillers Inc.	28	28	28	28	172,200
Pancake House Inc.	1.62	1.62	1.62	1.62	10,000
RFM Corp.	1.04	1.04	1.02	1.02	630,000
San Miguel Corp. A	47	47.5	47	47.5	88,300
San Miguel Corp. B	49.5	50	49	49.5	168,100
Vitarich Corp.	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	100,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.76	0.76	0.73	0.73	80,000
Abacus Con Res & Hdg B	0.75	0.75	0.75	0.75	10,000
Ayala Corp.	7.7	7.7	7.6	7.6	543,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	1.26	1.3	1.26	1.3	540,000
Alliance Global Group Inc.	12.75	13	12.5	12.5	34,600
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.8	0.8	0.78	0.78	50,000
A. Soriano Corp.	0.3	0.31	0.3	0.31	1,030,000
APC Group Inc.	0.18	0.19	0.18	0.19	700,000
Balabac Resources & Hldgs	0.24	0.24	0.24	0.24	80,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	1.46	1.48	1.46	1.46	5,213,000
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.155	0.16	0.155	0.16	500,000
Southeast Asian Cement	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	30,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	0.35	0.38	0.35	0.38	620,000
Ebecom Holdings Inc.	0.12	0.12	0.12	0.12	70,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	1.12	1.14	1.1	1.1	1,295,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp	24	24	23.75	23.75	63,500
Global Equities, Inc.	0.27	0.27	0.26	0.26	120,000
Guoco Holdings (Phils.)	0.23	0.25	0.205	0.25	1,360,000
House Of Investments Inc.	0.82	0.82	0.8	0.8	120,000
Ionics Inc.	11.75	11.75	11.5	11.5	34,100
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	2	2.1	1.98	2.06	352,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.79	0.79	0.79	0.79	300,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.5	0.51	0.5	0.51	260,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.53	0.53	0.53	0.53	50,000
Tanduay Holdings Inc.	6	6	6	6	55,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.28	0.3	0.28	0.3	140,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.27	0.28	0.27	0.28	550,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Music Corp.	2.6	2.7	2.6	2.7	56,000
Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	0.66	0.67	0.66	0.66	150,000
Picop Resources Inc.	0.095	0.095	0.095	0.095	100,000
Central Azucar Don Pedro	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	230,000
SPI Technologies Inc.	15.5	15.5	15.25	15.25	77,600
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICE					
Belle Corp.	0.5	0.51	0.5	0.5	1,320,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.51	0.51	0.49	0.49	630,000
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc.	0.21	0.22	0.21	0.22	120,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	39.5	41.5	39.5	41.5	650,900
Cosmos Bottling Corp.-Pref	4.6	4.6	4.6	4.6	5,000
Equitable Pci Bank-War	3.3	3.3	3.3	3.3	30,000
Globe Telecom Hldg (Pdr)	700	700	695	695	3,500
PLDT (10% Pref) Series T	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	1,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series V	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	1,000
Philweb.Com Inc -Warrants W	0.037	0.037	0.036	0.037	25,700,000
OTHERS					
Centro Escolar University	6.2	6.2	6.2	6.2	103,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	5.7	5.7	5.5	5.6	3,154,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.31	0.33	0.31	0.33	1,550,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	300,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.35	0.35	0.35	0.35	450,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	2.14	2.24	2.14	2.2	11,146,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.38	0.38	0.38	0.38	200,000
Philippine Estates Corp.	0.045	0.05	0.045	0.05	1,200,000
Robinsons Land Corp.	2.02	2.02	2	2	70,000
Phil Realty And Holdings	0.11	0.11	0.11	0.11	70,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	6.8	6.8	6.8	6.8	3,237,000
Urbancorp Realty Dev. Inc.	0.32	0.32	0.32	0.32	50,000
MINING					
Omico Corporation	0.004	0.0042	0.004	0.0042	14,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	1,270,000
OIL					
The Philodrill Corp. A	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.18	500,000
The Philodrill Corp. B	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.18	600,000
Pacifica	0.016	0.016	0.016	0.016	200,000

San Miguel offers . . .

(From page B1)

Investors have been selling down LTDI shares in the stock market after it was announced that its non-liquor businesses, including newly acquired Sugarland Beverage Corp. (of which 49 percent is owned by parent company SMC) would be transferred to CCBPI. While the $141-million deal would result in huge cash proceeds for LTDI, the market was concerned that the loss of the non-liquor business would impinge on the beverage company's long-term growth prospects.

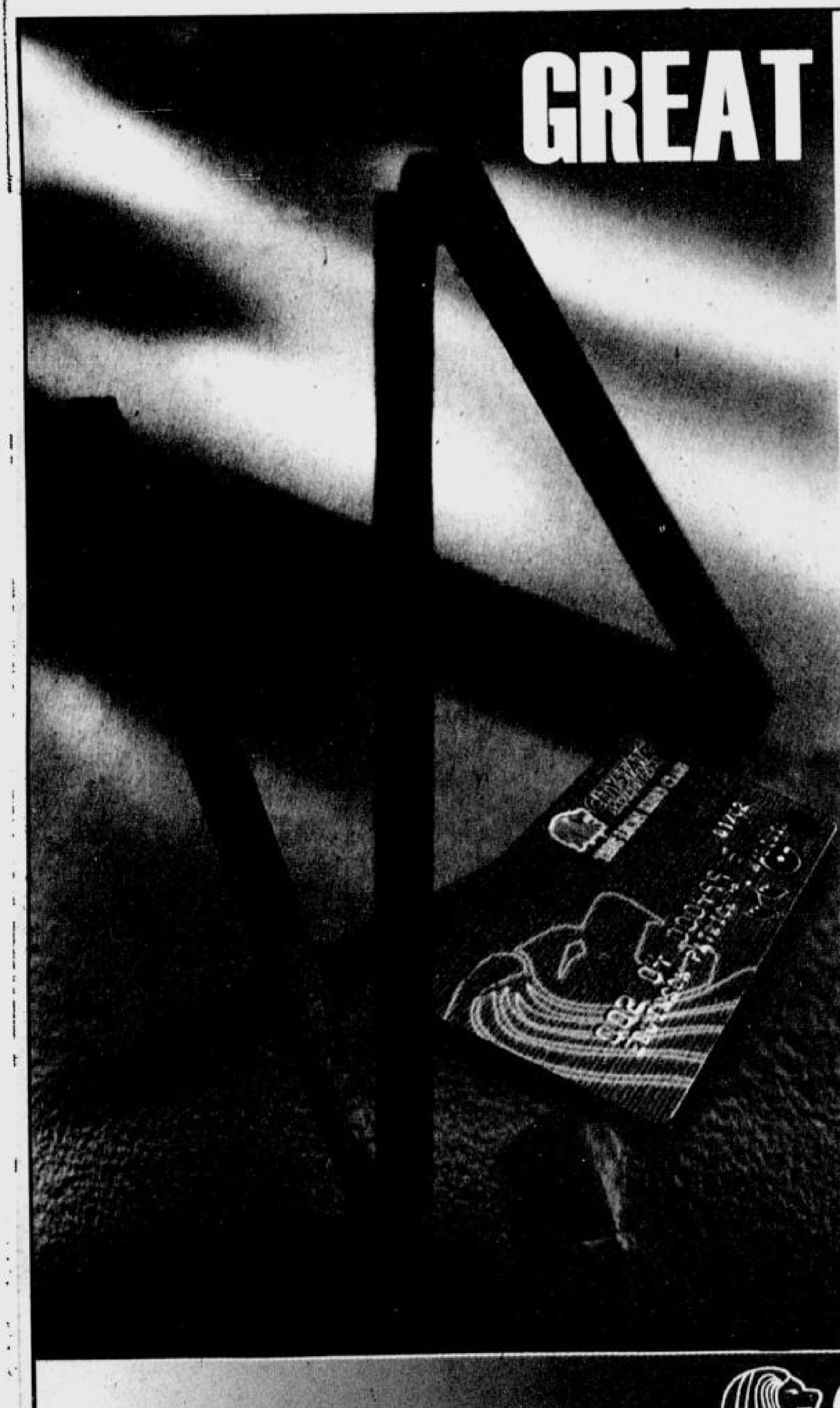
But despite this loss of business, LTDI is still expected to chalk up a 20-percent growth in profits this year from P1.35 billion in 2000, company officials estimated.

The SMC group had four major acquisitions since 2000, namely: Sugarland, Australian premium brewer J Boag & Sons, CCBPI and most recently, Pure Foods Corp.

Currencies

May 16, 2001

Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Foreign currency in US$	Foreign currency in Peso
United States	Dollar	1.138693	1.000000	50.3210
Japan	Yen	0.009227	0.008103	0.4078
United Kingdom	Pound	1.622296	1.424700	71.6923
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.145994	0.128212	6.4518
Switzerland	Franc	0.652546	0.573066	28.8373
Canada	Dollar	0.736780	0.647040	32.5597
Singapore	Dollar	0.626172	0.549904	27.6717
Australia	Dollar	0.590854	0.518888	26.1110
Bahrain	Dinar	3.020566	2.652661	133.4846
Kuwait	Dinar	N/A	N/A	N/A
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.303635	0.266652	13.4182
Brunei	Dollar	0.623941	0.547945	27.5731
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000100	0.000088	0.0044
Thailand	Baht	0.025026	0.021978	1.1060
UAE	Dirham	0.310067	0.272301	13.7025
Korea	Won	0.000873	0.000767	0.0386
Euro	Euro	1.000000	0.878200	44.1919
Germany	Mark	0.511292	0.449017	22.5950
France	Franc	0.152450	0.133881	6.7370
Netherlands	Guilder	0.453780	0.398510	20.0534
Austria	Schilling	0.072673	0.063821	3.2115
Belgium	Franc	0.024789	0.021770	1.0955
Italy	Lire	0.000517	0.000454	0.0228
Finland	Markka	0.168188	0.147703	7.4326
Portugal	Escudo	0.004987	0.00438	0.2204
Spain	Peseta	0.006010	0.005278	0.2656
Luxemburg	Franc	0.024789	0.02177	1.0955
Ireland	Punt	1.269738	1.115084	56.1121



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4-month gap in gov't budget at ₱36.717B

By Clarissa S. Batino

LAST-MINUTE revenue collections brought down the government's actual four-month deficit figure to P36.717 billion, slightly less than a preliminary estimate of P38.749 billion, outgoing Finance Secretary Alberto Romulo said yesterday.

Romulo said in a news briefing that the government posted a surplus of P1.208 billion last month. The government collected P61.442 billion in April and spent about P60.234 billion, he said.

That surplus trimmed the first-quarter deficit of P37.926 billion to P36.717 billion as of April versus the four-month deficit target of P38.27 billion.

"We are on target with our deficit, but we still aim to improve revenue collection and continue to adopt a prudential spending strategy. With current numbers, we are confident about containing the deficit this year to P145 billion, if not lower," Romulo said.

This year's four-month deficit of P36.717 billion was, however, still bigger by 176 percent than the same period of last year's P13.283 billion.

Romulo said conservative spending had been the key in keeping a tight rein on the deficit. In the first four months, he said, the government was able to save or postpone P9.097 billion worth of expenditures to offset sluggish revenue collections.

The Bureau of Internal Revenue's collections from January to April fell short by P10.654 billion from its target of P145.208 billion for this period.

In April, a tax collection month, the agency managed to collect only P49.442 billion worth of taxes versus its target of P51.823 billion.

The government is hoping to keep its budget deficit below P145 billion, or 3.8 percent of gross domestic product, this year.

Industries urge gov't to defend WTO tariffs

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

PHILIPPINE manufacturers are urging the Macapagal administration to defend the country's tariffs in the upcoming round of trade negotiations among members of the World Trade Organization.

In a position paper, the Federation of Philippine Industries said the Philippines had already sheared its tariffs by roughly half since 1995, which was more than what the WTO required.

WTO agreements require the trade body's members to reduce duties on all tradable goods by at least 33 percent over a 10-year period up to 2004, when the WTO wants to implement freer trade among nations.

Due to the government's eagerness to satisfy the WTO, it has cut average tariffs on agricultural products by 52 percent from 27.9 percent in 1995 to 14.4 percent in 2000.

The FPI said average duties on manufactured goods had likewise been slashed by 49 percent to 13.96 percent in 1995 to 6.91 percent last year.

Although the Estrada administration previously agreed to maintain tariff levels from 2000 to 2001, local manufacturers believed that they needed a further extension of the tariff freeze in order to strengthen their operations before going head-to-head with imports.

The FPI said, apart from keeping tariffs unchanged, the government should also push during the WTO meeting in Qatar this November to extend the expiry of local content and foreign exchange requirements under the Motor Vehicle Development Program from 2000 to 2004.

The United States, the most influential member of the WTO, has filed a suit against the Philippines for its failure to tear down barriers to automotive trade last year.

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SCHEDULE OF CONFERENCE
May 24, 2001
THEME: S.W.O.T. ANALYSIS OF THE INDUSTRY
1:30 pm Roundtable Discussion
1:45 pm Industry Strengths
2:00 pm Industry Weaknesses
2:30 pm Industry Opportunities
2:45 pm Industry Threats /Challenges
3:00 pm Wrap up and Open Forum

SCHEDULE OF SEMINARS
May 24, 2001 (Thursday)
11:00-12:00nn "Integrating Your Business Through the Internet" by: Eastern Telecoms
1:00-2:00pm "TNT Global Logistics Solutions-Storapart" by: TNT International
2:00-3:00pm "Internet Traffic Management Solutions" by: Leverage Systems Technology
3:00-3:30pm "Content Distribution & Delivery Network (Streaming Technology)" by: Infolibria c/o Intex Telecoms Systems
3:00-4:00pm "Critical Power Protection Systems & Solutions" by: MGE-Ups Systems Phils. Inc.
4:00-4:30pm "Building Futures with NetworkPlace" by: Getronics
5:00-5:30pm by: IBM Philippines
5:00-6:00pm "Open Software & Cabling Systems" by: Automation & Security Inc.
6:00-6:30pm "Buy USA.com" by: U.S. Commercial Service

May 25, 2001 (Friday)
10:00-11:00am Ascendas: "Asia's Foremost Business Space Solutions Provider is Here in the Philippines" by: Acendas (Phils.) Corp./JTC
10:30-11:00am "Internet Traffic Management & Content Delivery Network" by: F5 Networks c/o Intex Telecoms Systems
11:00-12:00nn "Redundant Parallel Architecture Fact or Fiction!" by: Victron
11:30-12:00nn "Intelliwhere" (Geo-Space & Location-Space in Fixed & Wireless Industry: Multi-Dimensional Solutions) by: Intergraph Systems Sout-East Asia Pte. Ltd. (IGSEA)
12:00-1:00pm "Overcoming Barriers of Rural Telephony" by: Q-Telecel
1:00-1:30pm "Fiber Optic & Copper Cable Splice Cases" by: Preformed Line Products
1:00-2:00pm "e-Pay The Prepaid Solutions" by: E-Pay Asia Philippines
2:00-2:30pm "Lyncole XIT Grounding System" by: Globaltek
2:00-3:00pm "E-conference" by: Solid Video Corporation
3:00-3:30pm "Planet" by: Sun Microsystems
3:00-4:00pm "Cabling Solutions for the Future" by: Brand Rex (Microwarehouse)
3:30-4:00pm by: Sun Microsystems
4:00-4:30pm "Deployment of Fiber Infrastructure for Optimum Network" (Flexibility in High Capacity Backbone & Access Networks) by: Tyco Electronics Phils., Inc.
4:00-5:00pm "Cost Effective Interactive White Board" by: Board Meeting Inc.
5:00-5:30pm by: IBM Philippines
5:00-6:00pm "The Web Crisis Today" by: On-Line
6:00-6:30am "Buy USA.com" by: U.S. Commercial Service

May 26, 2001 (Saturday)
10:00-11:00pm "High Availability DC Solutions for your Business Needs" by: American Power Conversion
11:00-12:00nn "What Should I Know About IBOC" (In-Bond on-Channel AM/FM Digital Audio Broadcasting) by: Active Comm
1:00-1:30pm by: Kinetic Solutions
1:00-2:00pm "Communication Solution through Technology" by: DB International
2:00-2:30pm by: Molex Premise Networks
2:00-3:00pm "Work & Play with AV" by: Audio Visual Driver
3:00-3:30pm by: Porta Systems
3:00-4:00pm "Wireless Broadband: Powering the Future of Data Communication" by: Meridian Telecom
4:00-4:30pm by: Wireless Inc.
4:00-5:00pm "Alert Me Now!Your Messaging Companion" by: 25*8
5:00-5:30pm by: IBM Philippines
6:00-6:30pm "Buy USA.com" by: U.S. Commercial Service

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GENERAL SCHEDULE
Tuesday May 22 - Welcome Schedule
Wednesday May 23 - Plant Tour, Workshops and the 2001 Asia Pacific Aqua Awards
Wed-Thurs May 23-24 - Trade Fair
Thursday May 24 - Plant Tour and Workshops
Friday May 25 - Marketing Conference and Quality Seminar

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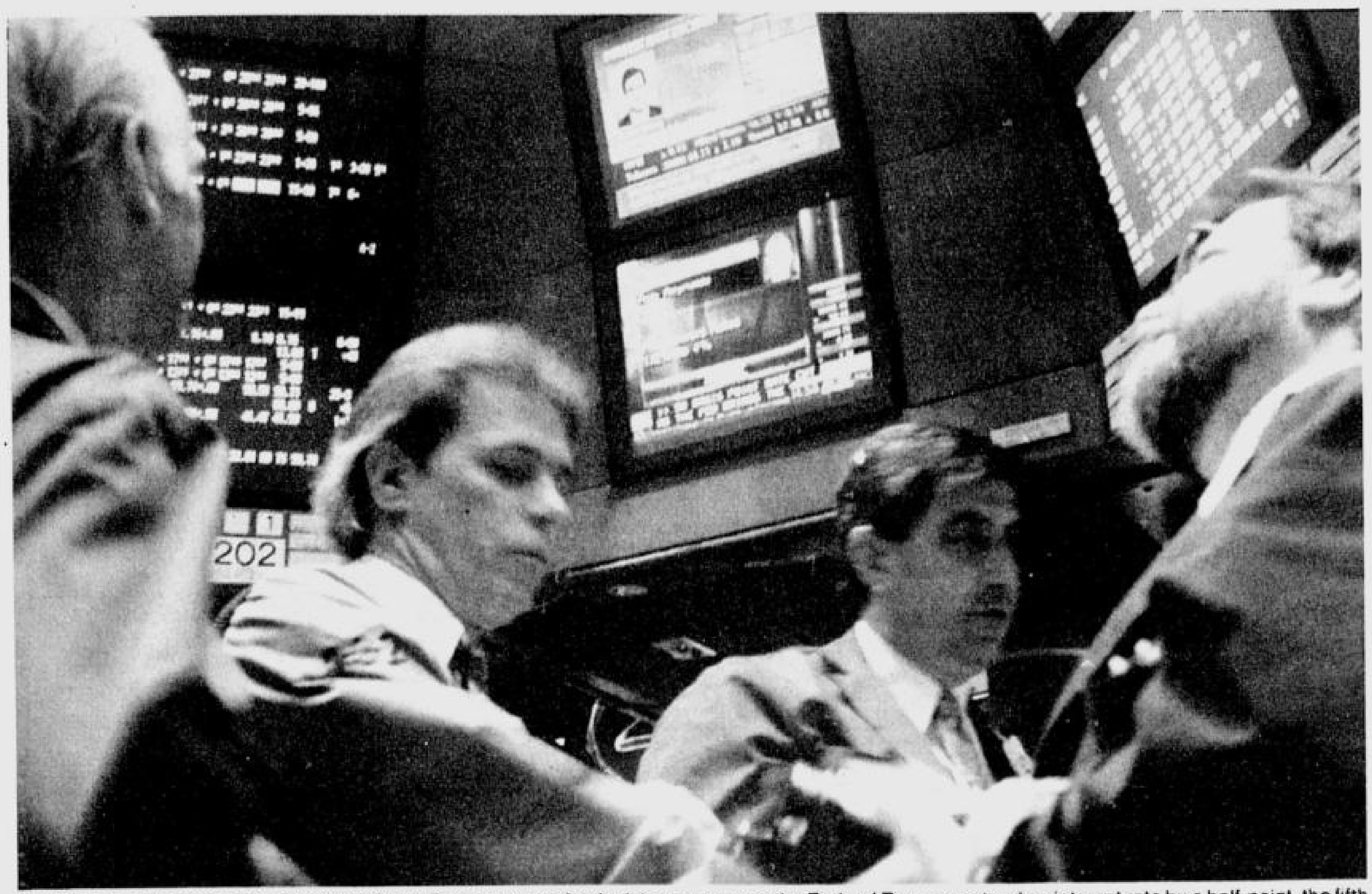
US Fed slashes rates again to spur growth



TRADERS on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange watch television screens as the Federal Reserve cuts a key interest rate by a half-point, the fifth reduction this year, in an effort to keep the struggling economy afloat.
AP

WASHINGTON—The US Federal Reserve on Tuesday slashed its benchmark interbank lending rate by half-a-point for the fifth time since January and signaled its readiness to approve further cuts should the US economy fail to revive later this year.

The Fed's policymaking Open Market Committee under Alan Greenspan said it lowered the federal funds rate to 4 percent in the face of declining capital investment by businesses and the potential for weaker consumer spending.

The federal funds rate, used by commercial banks making overnight loans among themselves, affects the cost of short-term credit throughout the economy and is the central bank's main weapon against sluggish momentum.

In a related move, the Fed lowered its largely symbolic discount rate, which it charges member banks that borrow from it, by half-a-point to 3.5 percent.

The half-point cut in fed funds had been widely anticipated and had little immediate impact on US financial markets. The Dow Jones industrial average edged up 5.4 points minutes after the announcement, before falling back 32 points into negative territory.

At the end of a regularly scheduled meeting here, the Open Market Committee, in a statement, noted that "investment in capital equipment has continued to decline" and cited "an erosion in current and prospective profitability" that "seems likely to hold down capital spending going forward."

The fear is that as companies throttle back on capital spending, they will lay off workers. Rising unemployment at a time when households are already discouraged by stock market losses could then cut deeply into consumer spending and thereby strangle an overall recovery.

In a suggestion that it might not be finished cutting rates, the committee asserted that "the risks are weighted mainly toward conditions that may generate economic weakness in the foreseeable future."

"The two things that could really stop the economy from rebounding in the second half of the year are a retrenching consumer and continued very weak capital spending," said economist Rick Egelton of Harris Bank/Bank of Montreal in Chicago.

"Those are the risks and the only lever the Fed has as its disposal is lowering interest rates."

At Merrill Lynch, chief economist Bruce Steinberg said he expected a rebound in growth by the fourth quarter as previous rate cuts by the Fed take effect. *AFP*

BSP seen matching cut in Fed rates

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE BANGKO Sentral ng Pilipinas said yesterday it would likely match in its policy meeting today the half-a-point reduction in the US Federal Reserve's benchmark interbank lending rate.

BSP Governor Rafael Buenaventura told reporters the Monetary Board would look at the inflation situation and, should it see a downward trend, would likely cut its own rates.

"We have to assess the inflation situation. If we confirm a downtrend forecast of inflation, then we will likely cut," he said.

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Buenaventura said the Fed's move "gives us room to cut rates, but we have to discuss the inflation for the month."

Inflation stood at 6:7 percent last month, the same level as in February and March. The Bangko Sentral expects the rate to fall between 6.7 and 7 percent this month and in June.

Buenaventura believes inflation will gradually decline in the second half of the year starting July. He has also ruled out the possibility that the consumer price index will rise to 8 percent as projected by the International Monetary Fund.

The central bank has kept its overnight borrowing and lending rates at 9.5 percent and 11.75 percent, respectively, over the last three weeks.

Benpres reports ₱362M in losses

By Elena R. Torrijos

BENPRES Holdings Corp., the flagship holding company of the Lopez family, yesterday reported a P362-million net loss in the first quarter of this year, a reversal of last year's performance when it registered P24 million in profit.

In documents filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission, Benpres blamed higher financing costs incurred by its telecom arm Bayan Telecommunications Holdings Inc. for the increase in the company's equity net losses in subsidiaries to P246 million during the quarter.

BayanTel, which suffers from a $480-million debt burden, has tapped Bank of America as financial adviser for its debt restructuring.

Early last month, the telecom company completed its revised business plan, which was submitted to creditors, but has yet to wrap up its restructuring blueprint.

Benpres also noted that while the revenues of ABS-CBN Broadcasting Communications Inc. grew, the gains were offset by the higher financing costs. First Philippine Holdings Corp., for its part, reported an increase in its profits to P546 million from P46 million last year brought about by the commissioning of its Sta. Rita power plant, which more than offset the 35-percent rise in its financial charges during the first quarter.

Benpres said its water concessionaire, Maynilad Water Services Inc., continued to seek the resolution of its foreign exchange loss recovery petition.

The Lopez group's tollway company, Manila North Tollways Corp., is still working out the terms of its long-term financing, projected to be closed within the year.

Benpres said that while it was beset with financial challenges amid a weakening global economy and difficult debt and equity markets, it was taking steps to extract value from its assets.

Last month, Benpres signed a memorandum of agreement with Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co., agreeing to merge their cable interests namely Sky Cable and Home Cable. The merged entity will be the dominant cable operator in the country with a market share of approximately 60 percent. Under the MOA, Benpres Holdings will sell one-third of the merged entity.

Lopezes consolidate power firms

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE LOPEZ group of companies yesterday announced the consolidation of all its power generation businesses in the Philippines into First Generation Holdings Corp., a subsidiary of listed First Philippine Holdings Corp.

FPHC told the Philippine Stock Exchange that the consolidation of the businesses, which had an estimated value of $550 million, was "in line with the strategy for a separate focus on power generation."

As a result of consolidation, all of its shareholdings and investment in First Gas Power Corp., First Private Power Corp., Panay Power Corp. and First Philippine Energy Corp. were transferred to First Generation in exchange for shares.

FPHC has long been planning to use First Generation to raise cash and take part in the bidding for facilities of state-controlled National Power Corp., which is set to be privatized by the government.

FPHC has declared plans to sell up to 49 percent of the company to new investors.

Bulk of FPHC's earnings come from its power-related businesses. This year, the company is expected to post higher profits with the full commercial operation of the group's power-generating plants, namely First Gas Power Corp's 1,000-megawatt Santa Rita natural gas power plant and Panay Power Corp's 72-mw diesel power plant.

FPHC's joint venture with Sumitomo Corp. of Japan, First Philippine Industrial Park, earlier bagged a $300-million investment deal with cigarette firm Philip Morris Philippines.

The 300-hectare industrial park is also expected to obtain another big contract with a multinational company sometime this year.

Deals on Urban Bank rehab signed

THE EXPORT and Industry Bank and the National Association of Urban Bank Inc. and Urbancorp Investments Inc. Depositors and Creditors (Naud) said yesterday they have concluded deals that should allow Urban Bank Inc. to re-open by July this year.

In an interview, ExportBank president Benjamin Castillo said ExportBank and Naud convinced on Monday Urban Bank's major depositors, creditors and shareholders to support their plan to rehabilitate the shuttered lender and Urbancorp Investments Inc.

Castillo said Urban Bank's three largest depositors—San Miguel Corp., Petron Corp. and Manila Electric Co.—agreed to restructure over P3 billion in combined deposits and placements into long-term loans. Three-quarters of the amount to be restructured would be spread over three years while the remaining 25 percent would be stretched over six years, he said.

Under the proposal sent to the Philippine Deposit Insurance Corp. by ExportBank and Naud, Urban Bank and Urbancorp would be integrated as a commercial bank and capitalized at P3.5 billion. It would then be merged with ExportBank within the year.

If this plan pushes through, Urbancorp would be merged with Urban Bank. ExportBank would infuse P300 million in initial capital into the new bank. After full provisioning for non-performing loans, Urban Bank's capital base, inclusive of all the capital infusions and conversions into equity, should reach P3.7 billion.

In six months, ExportBank is hoping to merge with Urban Bank, with Urban Bank—since it is the one listed on the stock exchange—as the surviving entity. The bank that will come out of this merger will be renamed Export and Industry Bank and will have a capital base of at least P6 billion.

Castillo said the memoranda of agreement that ExportBank and Naud signed with Urban Bank's major depositors, creditors and shareholders would not prevent shareholders of the bank from filing cases regarding the bank's closure.

PDIC president Norberto Nazareno said ExportBank and Naud had yet to submit a P30-million performance bond.

Equitable reports 50% income drop

EQUITABLE PCI Bank Inc. said yesterday its net income in the first quarter of the year fell by half to P143 million.

The bank said interest income during the period grew 14 percent to P4.756 billion while income from trading, commissions and other areas rose to P2 billion from P1.56 billion.

These revenues, however, were eroded by a 28-percent increase in interest on deposits and borrowed funds to P3.274 billion and a 41-percent hike in other operating expenses that pushed up total expenses for the quarter to P6.425 billion.

The Equitable PCI Bank board recently appointed former Solidbank Corp. president Deogracias Vistan as president and chief executive under a four-year contract effective June 1.

Vistan said the bank would focus on recovering deposits to settle within the year P19.9 billion worth of emergency loans it got from the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas.

Equitable PCI Bank reported that its total assets as of the end of the first quarter amounted to P271 billion, with deposits of P141 billion and liquid assets of P88 billion.

The bank has capital funds amounting to P45 billion. *Elena R. Torrijos*

PNB posts ₱2-B net loss in Q1

THE PHILIPPINE National Bank posted a P2-billion net loss in the first quarter of the year, more than double of last year's first-quarter figure.

Documents filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission showed that PNB's net loss resulted largely from interest expenses of P836 million on a P25-billion emergency loan it secured from the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas and the Philippine Deposit Insurance Corp. in October last year.

PNB sought an emergency loan to cover for heavy withdrawals following reports that beer and tobacco tycoon Lucio Tan was pulling out of talks to acquire the government's stake in the bank.

PNB also attributed the larger net loss to P539 million in additional provisions for probable loan and other losses, as well as a one-time expense for litigation and assets acquired amounting to P300 million.

In its report to the SEC, PNB said its interest income for the first quarter dipped to P3.05 billion from P3.116 billion while total interest expense amounted to P3.346 billion from P2.756 billion. *Elena R. Torrijos*

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UNIVERSAL REINSURANCE CORPORATION
SYNOPSIS OF ANNUAL STATEMENT
As of December 31, 1999

ADMITTED ASSETS

Bonds	P	44,260,000.00
Investment in Treasury Bills		206,884,000.00
Stocks		292,191,220.04
Real Estate		109,697,877.65
Mortgage Loans		57,500,270.73
Collateral Loans		851,428.58
Security Fund		69,715.00
Other Investments		2,820,000.00
Other Loans		7,893,617.36
Cash in Office and in Banks		310,248,873.58
Premiums Due From Ceding Companies		51,039,817.93
Premiums Reserve W/held By Ceding Cos.		72,141,570.70
Loss Reserve W/held by Ceding Cos.		17,011.35
Reinsurance Recoverable on Losses		268,754,503.27
Accrued Interest Income Receivable		4,804,448.71
EDP Machine		2,502,402.00
Total Admitted Assets	P	1,431,676,756.90

LIABILITIES

Losses and Claims Payable	P	334,198,343.87
Reserve for Unearned Premiums		109,330,902.00
Catastrophe Loss Reserve		3,597,753.89
Premiums Due to Reinsurers		176,439,773.96
Premiums Reserve W/held for Reinsurers		56,566,636.91
Other Reinsurance Accounts Payable		6,876,520.27
Accrued Expenses		6,718,506.89
Taxes Payable		1,912,584.00
Accounts Payable		1,238,049.49
Unearned Bond Discount		1,585,469.61
Other Liabilities		386,538.85
Total Liabilities	P	698,851,079.74

STOCKHOLDERS' EQUITY

Capital Stock Paid-Up	P	328,022,880.00
Special Surplus Fund:		
Fluctuation Reserve - Stocks		35,194,570.46
Retained Earnings		369,608,226.70
Total Stockholders' Equity	P	732,825,677.16
Total Liabilities & Stockholders' Equity	P	1,431,676,756.90

(This Synopsis, prepared from the 1999 Annual Statement, approved by the Insurance Commissioner, is published pursuant to Section 225 of the Insurance Code)

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QUEZON CITY

Panay QC nr Roces 1000m² with 2 Houses 928-3267

PROVINCIAL

SUBIC 96,828m²
good 4 subd 0919-2300217

HOUSE & LOT

LAS PINAS

LAS PINAS/BACOOR 3BRS 2TB DP 6MO 874-0486/87

P1.6M 3BR 2T&B 8054686

MAKATI

Evangelista St. Mkti L311 4Sty w/Income • 928-1469

Holiday Inn Eaton Makati Good Income Tel 928-1469

MARIKINA

Grnlnd bnew 3br 2M 9487112

PARANAQUE

Merville 450m² 2sty w/ or w/o pool 8M 9M 10M 8226940 8247387 Elvira

PASIG

Bo Capitolyo Bungalow 3BR 3CG P6M • 671-4421

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QUEZON CITY

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Baler St. L3000 wHse Tel. #928-1469

Samat St SMH L600 4sty wHse Tel. #928-1469

D. Tuazon SMH QC 411m² 2styTel. #928-1469

Broker Welcome
805m² 6BR Conc Hse 15.5M Neg. Blue Ridge 647-0671

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Filinvest2 760m² Big Haus/ Garden P15.5M 671-4421

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LGV 1000m² 4br attic 25M Panoramic View 412-1825

NEW MLA. 0917-7541545

Olympic Hts 3BR 681-2457

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Proj. 2 BN'ew B'ful 3Sty Townhouse #19 Kubili St., Tel. 434-8186 • 724-2629

Proj. 8 H&L 5M 425m² w/2 Sty House • 928-3267

Rolling Hill New Mla L258 2Sty 4BR 2Car 928-1469

San Antonio SFDM QC 363m² w/old hse 928-3267

Sikatuna Vill Big B'New B'ful 3Sty 5BR 6TB Family Hall #13 Mapagkumbaba P12.5M 434-8054 7242629

Sta. Mesa Heights Houses 65M-10M • 928-3267

Timog QC 993sqm w/Old House • 928-2497

Xavierville New Duplex 0917-7541545

RIZAL

2Sty 4BR 2TB 3.5M 6412590 643-6766 • 0917-7887315

Ipil St Marikina Hgts 5Bdrms Pgr 1481788421

SAN JUAN

•North Grnhills 960m² cor Only 38M w/pool 671-4421

Buchanan North Grnhills 892sqm Pgr 1481788421

PROVINCIAL

Tagaytay L286m² 2sty Bnew 9281469 • 4534877

OTHER AREAS

CanyonWoods Btngas 7.5M ownrlvng neg0917-8143792

•LAGUNA BEL-AIR 3•
LA120m² up 2-3BR w/prkg
Joann 912-5775

Vicente Ilustre 240m² P6M with Bung • 928-3267

LOT

KALOOCAN

Deparo Cal City 5000m² VLot P3500T/m² 928-1469

MAKATI

Broker Welcome
FT. Bonifacio 450m² 23T/m² Neg. Terms Tel.# 647-0671

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QUEZON CITY

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REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

LOT

QUEZON CITY

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Bale St. V-Lot 5000m² Tel. #928-1469

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Del Monte L1600m² V. Lot Tel. #928-1469

Along Mo. Ignacia 1500m² 37T/m² w/Old Hse 671-4421

Calle Industria 10,000sqm Pgr 1481788421

Congressional Comm'l Lot 452m² 20T/m² • 928-3267

SFDM QC 519sqm w/Imp. 815-0298 CP 0919-4037225

Sta. Mesa Hts 0917-7541545

RIZAL

Imleda Ave Cainta 464sqm Comm'l 8150298/6558371

Taytay 10790sqm Comm'l 815-0298 CP 0919-4037225

PROVINCIAL

Belle Reve P6700/sqm Sta. Rosa Laguna 9155177

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Tanza Cavite L15333m² Comml Lot 1T/m² 928-1469

OTHER AREAS

Comml Marcos Highway 363m² P20T/m²• 928-3267

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Tektite East 220sqm 2 Parking Pgr 1481788421

THE PARC ROYALE Raquel Pager 1481788421

The Prestige Tower Raquel • Pager 1481788421

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CONDO/TWNHSE/APT

PASIG

Renaissance 2000 3Brms P10M • Pager 1481788421

San Miguel Ave 86sqm 1 Parking Pgr 1481788421

QUEZON CITY

•Blue Ridge A Only P6.5M 3BR Attic 2CG 671-4421

CUBAO Condo P1.3"EZ"term rent to own swap lot car 9120647 9124428 4381161

Narra Hts 915-5177 3BR

PANAY 3BR P5M 722-8951

Scout Area 3BR 3TB 2CG MRw/TB P5.5M • 928-2497

Scout Townhses P5-7M 3sty 5BR 4TB • 928-3267

•Spacious Almost New 250m² 3BR Attic 671-4421

Teachers Vill QC 3BR 3TB 1CG P2.5M • 928-2497

TSora 3BR+1md 2TB P2.5M 2cgrge DBO 0917-8143792

Woodside NMla 915-5177

SAN JUAN

AIC Gold Tower 2BR w/den FA159m² • 928-1469

Francis Court San Juan LA200 Flr269 • 928-2497

Horseshoe Drive 3BR Sn Juan P6.5M 915-5177

OTHER AREAS

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SAN JUAN

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REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

CONDO/TWNHSE

MAKATI

Mkt. Asia Tower 1-2-3BR 751-8342 • 6337601-03

MANILA

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MANDALUYONG

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(PDI – May 17, 2001)

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50 FIELD COLLECTORS
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At least 2nd year college level
Skills in driving motorcycle a plus

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M/F 21-35 years old
Graduate of any 4-year course
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With dynamic personality and goal oriented
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10 ENCODERS
M/F 21-35 years old
Proficient in computer operations
Graduate of any 2-year computer course
Willing to work long hours

10 ACCOUNTANTS
M/F 21-35 years old
Graduate of BS Accountancy
With at least 1 year experience in the same Field
Computer Literate

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PUBLIC NOTICES

AUCTION SALE

NATION Pawnshop, Inc. Poblacion, Meyc. Bulacan will sell all unredeemed pledges of Nov. 2000 on May 21, '01, 10am. *Lanuza & Sons-Auctioneer.*

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

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PUBLIC NOTICES

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

TShirt Sale 4383147

Work From Home 8937903

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the estate & deposit accounts of the late Mariano E. Villalobos were extrajudicially settled by his heirs as per Doc.No. 2; Page No. 2; Book II; Series of 2001 before Notary Public Rodolfo A. Mabutas of Calaca, Batangas.
PDI-May 3, 10 & 17, 2001

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late MANUEL F. LINDA has been extrajudicially settled among his heirs as per Doc. 148 Page. 30 Book LXXXVIII Series of 1998 before Notary Public Atty. Gregorio F. Ariola Jr. of Cainta Rizal.
(PDI- May 10, 17, & 24 2001)

NOTICE OF LOSS

Notice is given that the S2 licenses of the ff. MDs. were lost: Ma. Lakambini Crespo, M.D. 996186, Nacianceno Albaran, M.D. 769490, Eduardo del Rosario, M.D. 309193, Angelina Margate, M.D. 606293, Francisco Arciaga, M.D. 15307, Imelda Arciaga, M.D. 740194
(PDI- May 17, 2001)

PERSONAL

"FORTY DAYS"
In Honor of the Glorious Apostle St. Jude
THE LAST DAY

After having prayed the Act of Contrition and forty Our Fathers for the day, say the following prayers: O most powerful Apostle, St. Jude, being about to finish the visit which I have been making to thy venerable image, in order to obtain from the Lord, through thy intercession, the grace I am asking, if it be for my salvation, I beseech thee to have pity on me, and, as a reward of my fervent prayers, to obtain from the divine mercy whatever is best for my soul and everlasting welfare. Amen.

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OBITUARIES

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Day before publication

"**Chiye Mori Oshima** passed away on Tuesday, May 15 at 12 midnight. She was a poet, journalist, craftsperson, wife to the late **Harry T. Oshima**, mother to **Neal** and **Evin** and grandmother to **Mika**, **Carlo**, **Alexis** and **Dylan**. She died at 85 years old following a full and creative life. Her body was cremated on the same day."

MESSAGE OF THANKS

We, the family of the late

ONG YAN KING Vda. De CHUA

who joined her Creator on May 1, 2001

wish to express our sincere gratitude and deep appreciation to all our relatives and friends for your solicitous presence, beautiful flowers, donations, expressions of sympathy, for attending the memorial service and for Masses and prayers offered for her eternal rest, and also for your solace and caring in so many ways during our moment of grief.

Thank you very much.

Message of Thanks

We, the family of the late

PONCE CAESAR MERCADO PEREÑA

who peacefully joined his Creator on 9 May 2001

acknowledge with grateful appreciation the kind expression of sympathy showered on us in the hour of our deepest sorrow.

God Bless You All.

From,
Rodrigo Oprecio Pereña
Violeta Mercado-Pereña
Albert Caesar Mercado Pereña

---

†

Rogad a Dios por el alma de

DON MIGUEL CAMPOS VALDIVIA

que falleció cristianamente en Madrid, España, habiendo recibido los Santos Sacramentos.

Su desconsolados, esposa **Julia Ortigas de Campos**, sobrina **Mercedes Lanuza Ortigas**, hermana **Josefina Campos da Silva**, hermanos politicos, sobrinos, y demás parientes ruegan al piadoso lector una oración por el eterno descanso de su alma.

El cadaver se hallará de cuerpo presente en el Santuario de San José, Greenhills East, Mandaluyong, desde la mañana del 18 de Mayo.

La misa funeral se celebrará el dia 19 de mayo a la una de la tarde. El entierro verificará inmediatamente despues en el Mausoleo de la Familia Lanuza en Manila Memorial Park, Sucat, Parañaque.

Se ruega no envien flores. Una donacion al Father Guido Coletti O.S.J. Foundation, al Hospicio de San José, o al Hogar de San Joaquin sera agradecido.

"Mike, has sido un magnifico esposo y un tio muy especial para mi y seguiras seindo todo para nosotras, un beso hasta el cielo."

EVELYN SANTIAGO VERGEL DE DIOS

Born : February 26, 1950
Died : May 15, 2001

Survived by husband Mayor **Lito Vergel de Dios**; children **Czarina**, **Jayson** and **William**, mother **Felicidad Santiago**, sisters **Lorie**, **Luz**, **Yollie** and brother **George**.

Interment is on May 19, 2001 at 2:00 PM at the Angat Municipal Cemetery.

Body lies in state at the family residence at Poblacion, Angat, Bulacan.

BEN CORDERO LIM

(Former Mayor of Torrijos, Marinduque)

Peacefully joined his Creator on May 15, 2001 at the age of 74.

His bereaved wife **Lelita**; children **Meneleo** and **Gina**, **Iraida**, **Aristottle** and **Merly**, **Abygail** and **Rene**, **Lea** and **Mirco**; brother and sister **Galo** and **Dorothy**, **Leoni** and **Gus**; and other relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at Loyola Memorial Chapels, and will be transferred to Torrijos, Marinduque on May 18, 2001 at 3:00 AM.

Interment will be on May 20, 2001 at Torrijos Catholic Cemetery.

Please omit flowers.

"We know that God raised the Lord Jesus from death. He will raise us to life with Jesus. He will present us, along with you, to God."

2 Cor. 4:14

"I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me will live, even though he dies; and whoever believes in Me will never die."

John 11:25-26

Jesus said, *"I am the resurrection and the life: whoever believes in me though he dies, will live forever".*

-- John 11:25

The people of Quezon mourn the death of a loving father, dedicated public servant and hero

HON. MARCIAL C. PUNZALAN JR.

who died in the grace of our Lord on 12 May 2001 at the age of 55.

His bereaved **wife**, Lynnette Arao Punzalan; **children**, Marcial III and Charinah, Carlos Miguel, Francis Angelo, Antonio Roberto and Jynnette; **granddaughter**, Cherise Heloise; **mother**, Iluminada, **mother-in-law**, Elisa G. Arao; **siblings and in-laws**, George and Tessie Ward, Naning and Christy P. Singson, Patricio and family, Sor. Nelie A. Antiqua, Sonia G. Arao, r.c., Eva A. Gumtang, Sor. Anelie G. Arao, r.c., Tony and Monette Andal, Elsieta G. Arao, Le and Sophie A. Nguyen, Aniano and Myrna Arao, Eugenio and Rose Arao; **nieces** and **nephews;**
and other **relatives**

Request the readers for prayers for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the Marcial M. Punzalan Sr. Sports Complex,
Escudero St., Tiaong, Quezon.
His body will be transferred to the House of Representatives on Thursday, 17 May
for appropriate honors, then to the Sanctuario de San Antonio, Forbes Park on Friday, 18 May.
Interment will be on Sunday, 20 May 2001 at the *Libingan ng mga Bayani* after a 2:30 p.m. Mass at the Sanctuario de San Antonio.

RODOLFO HERNAEZ GARCES

*Peacefully joined his Creator on May 12, 2001
at the age of 66.*

His loving wife **Leticia** (†); children **Dante** and **Cathy**, **Rodel** and **Edith**, **Rowena**, **Eric**, **Annette** and **Roger**; grandchildren, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at #16 Variety St., Manila Times Village, Pamplona, Las Piñas.

Interment will be on Saturday, May 19, 2001, 10:00 a.m. at Golden Haven Memorial Park, Las Piñas City.

COL. SAULITO R. AROMIN, INF (MNSA) PA

PMA (MARANGAL) CLASS 1974

NECROLOGICAL SERVICES WILL BE ON FRIDAY, MAY 18, 2001 AT 4:00 PM AT ST. MICHAEL CHAPEL, FT. BONIFACIO, MAKATI CITY.

INTERMENT WILL BE ON SATURDAY, MAY 19, 2001 AT 12:00 NOON AT THE LIBINGAN NG MGA BAYANI, FT. BONIFACIO, MAKATI CITY AFTER THE 9:00 AM REQUIEM MASS.

"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life."

John 3:16

In Loving Memory
on the 1st Death Anniversary of

Royden Bermudez Tungol

(Ismael)

May 17, 2001

Almighty God, we pray
for the healing of all unhappy feelings Roy's death leaves in our hearts.

We lift up to you our grief and sorrow confident, that you will change our mourning to rejoicing.

That our beloved Roy now rests in your peace.

We love you Roy
Always and forever

PEDRO JOSE BARTOLOME

Peacefully joined our Creator on May 12, 2001 at the age of 86.

His remains lie in state at the Loyola Memorial Chapels, Guadalupe, Makati City.

Interment will be on May 19, 2001, Saturday at 8:00 A.M. at the Libingan ng mga Bayani.

"Whoever finds life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for My sake will find it"

Matthew 10:39

ATTY. JOSE PARCO TANINGCO, C.P.A.

[Founder of the Rural Bank of Banga (Aklan) Inc. & Rural Bank of Sta. Barbara (Iloilo) Inc.]

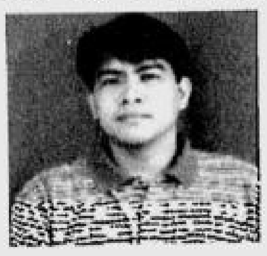
*Peacefully joined his Creator on May 15, 2001
at the age of 80.*

His loving wife **LILIA**; children **DR. JANE** and **JOEY BAUTISTA**, **ATTY. DENNIS** and **MARLYN**, **HARRY** and **CECILIA**, **JUN** and **ANA**, **ENGR. ALLAN**, **ANDY** and **GLADYS**, **GRACE** and **ROLLY LEBARDO**, **JAMES** and **STELLA**; grandchildren **ZANDER** and **GIRLIE**, **JOHN-JOHN**, **JASON**, **MARVYN** and **CECILLE**, **DENNIS JR.**, **ANGELO**, **KATRINA**, **AVIGAILE** and **DEXTER BULANADI**, **HARRY JR.**, **LILIA**, **ANTHONY**, **ANDREW JR.**, **NOEMI**, **KEVIN**, **GIAN**, **JEGO**, **TALA**, **LEILA**, **VINCENT**, **MARIAN**; great grandchildren **ATHENA**, **MATTHEW**, **GAIL DANIELLE**, **BABY JOSHUA**; nephews, nieces, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at Arlington Memorial Chapels, 12 G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be on May 20, 2001 after the 1:00 p.m. Holy Mass at the Holy Cross Memorial Park, Novaliches, Quezon City.

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC



MR. PERCIVAL M. JAYMA

This is to inform the public that **MR. PERCIVAL M. JAYMA**, whose picture appears above with last known addresses at #6520 JUNCTION, LOS BAÑOS, LAGUNA is no longer connected with **DIWA DISTRINET (CAVITE) INC.**, (exclusive distributor of **DIWA LEARNING SYSTEMS INC** publications) effective March 5, 2001. He went on AWOL and was terminated for cause due to violation of various company policies.

Furthermore, he has no proper work turnover and is not yet cleared with the company. Any transaction entered into by him on behalf of the company including the use of DIWA Provisional receipt nos. 70701-70706, 70713-70716, 70719, 70724, 70741-70746 and 70748-70750 will not be honored.

DIWA MANAGEMENT

(PDI – May 17, 2001)

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

MRS.RAQUEL N. LOCSIN

This is to inform the public that **MRS. RAQUEL N. LOCSIN**, whose picture appears above with last known addresses at #702-1 Rizal St. Brgy 17, Legazpi City, is no longer connected with **DIWA DISTRINET (CAVITE) INC.**, (exclusive distributor of **DIWA LEARNING SYSTEMS INC** publications) effective February 21, 2001. She was terminated for cause.

Any transaction entered into by the above-mentioned person in behalf of the company effective on the said date will not be honored.

DIWA MANAGEMENT

(PDI – May 17, 2001)

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Health
DR. JOSE FABELLA MEMORIAL HOSPITAL
Manila

INVITATION TO BID

The Dr. Jose Fabella Memorial Hospital invites interested accredited bidders/suppliers to pre-qualify and to bid for:

1. Supply and delivery of Linen Materials for three (3) months use;
2. Construction of Fire Exit Stairs for Dr. Jose Fabella Memorial Hospital

Pre-Qualification requirements and other details maybe obtained from the JFMH PBEC Secretariat on **May 21 to 23, 2001.**

All interested bidders are required to attend the Pre-Bid Conference on **June 15, 2001**, 2:00 P.M. at the Reception Hall, JFMH. Those who fail to attend shall automatically be disqualified from participating in the said bidding.

All bids must be accompanied by bid security equivalent to 2 1/2 % of the total bid price but not to exceed Twenty Thousand Pesos (P20,000.00) which maybe in the form of GSIS bond, cash, manager's check or bank draft or guarantee against any reputable bank or any combination thereof.

The JFMH PBEC reserves the right to reject any or all bids without offering any reason, waive any required formality and award the contract to any bidder whose proposal as evaluated is the most advantageous to the Government.

(Sgd.) **LILIA A. GUERRERO**
Chairperson, PBEC

(PDI--May 16, 17 & 18, 2001)

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* Rates are VAT exclusive

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS AND HIGHWAYS
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
Manila

SPECIFIC PROCUREMENT NOTICE

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES

PROPOSED NATIONAL ROAD IMPROVEMENT AND MANAGEMENT PROGRAM (PHASE 1, NRIMP-1)
BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT IMPLEMENTATION PROJECTS (BIIPS)

REBID-FINANCIAL INFORMATION MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

Contract/Bid No. BIIPS-E05

This invitation for bids follows the general procurement notice of this project that appears in *Development Business* No. 597 of March 31, 1999.

The Government of the Philippines has received a loan from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) toward the cost of the National Road Improvement and Management Program, and it intends to apply part of the proceeds of the proposed loan to payments under the contract for which this invitation to bid is issued. The Department of Public Works and Highways invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for provision of the Financial Information Management System project. The implementation will occur in the Central Office, sixteen (16) Regional Offices, and two (2) pilot District Offices. The delivery/customization/implementation period is anticipated to be 24 months beginning in November, 2001.

Bidding will be conducted through the international competitive bidding procedures specified in the World Bank's *Guidelines: Procurement under IBRD Loans and IDA Credits*, January 1995 (revised January and August 1996, September 1997 and January 1999), and is open to all bidders from eligible source countries as defined in the guidelines.

Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from the Department of Public Works and Highways (location and phone number provided below) and inspect the Bidding Documents from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM daily.

A complete set of the bidding documents in English may be purchased by interested eligible bidders from June 7, 2001, on the submission of a written application to the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of PhP 5,000 (plus postal charges of PhP 500 (inland) or PhP 2,000 (overseas) The method of payment will be cash or cashier's check in favor of the Department of Public Works and Highways. The document may be obtained in person from 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM at the address below or will be sent by courier (DPWH will not be responsible for the loss by the courier).

All bids will have to be accompanied by a bid security of a minimum of 2% of the Bidders price as specified in the bidding documents and will have to be delivered to the address below on or before 10:00 AM, August 2, 2001. Late bids will be rejected.

The attention of prospective Bidders is drawn to (i) the fact that they will be required to certify in their bids that all software is either covered by a valid license or was produced by the Bidder and (ii) that violations are considered fraud, which is, among other remedies, punishable by potential blacklisting from participation in future World Bank financed procurements.

Bids will be opened in the presence of bidder's representatives who choose to attend at the address below on that day immediately thereafter.

The Department of Public Works and Highways reserves the right to accept or reject in part or in full any or all of the offers without assigning any reason thereof.

Undersecretary MANUEL M. BONOAN
Department of Public Works and Highways
Chairman NRIMP Special PBAC
Attn: PM Antonio V. Molano, Jr.
Team Leader PBAC-TWG
5th Floor Central Office
Bonifacio Drive, Port Area
Manila, Philippines
Tel.: (632) 304-3301
Fax: (632) 304-3018

(PDI – May 7, 10 & 17, 2001)

3-DAY AUCTION SALE

On the instructions of Concrete Aggregates Corp.

A HUGE QUANTITY OF SUPERB QUALITY OPERATIONAL AND NON-OPERATIONAL

CONSTRUCTION PLANT, HEAVY EQUIPMENT, CONCRETE BATCHING PLANT, ASPHALT MIXING PLANT, SPARE PARTS, LOOSE TOOLS AND EQUIPMENT, MISCELLANEOUS AND SCRAPS

Over 2,500 lots including: -

CONCRETE EQUIPMENT - REX 120m³/hr Dry Type Concrete Batching Plant, CM Metal Mixer, *SCHWING (1996) BPL601 HDD KVM 28/24-125, Concrete Pump on FORD CFT8000 6 x 4 Chassis, *SCHWING BPL600HD KVM 22/112 Concrete Pump on ISUZU SLR450 4 x 2 Chassis, CALLAGHAN (1994) S100-8, Stationary Pump, *(8) FORD (1996) LT8000 6 x 4 Mixer Trucks w/ REX 750 10yrd³ Cap Mixing Vessels, A Qty Of Asstd Mixing Vessels, Asstd Mixer Truck Pump Motors, Pneumatic Concrete Breakers, Asstd. Concrete Cutters, etc
ASPHALT EQUIPMENT - BARBER GREENE120 tonnes/hr Continuous Asphalt Mixing Plant, NIGATA (1991) NF220 BIIVDM, NIGATA NF220 BIIDM, (2) NIGATA NF220AVDM Asphalt Pavers, MITSUBISHI MP40W Wheeled Asphalt Paver
CRAWLER TRACTORS - *KOMATSU (1997) D155A-3 w/ M/S Ripper; KOMATSU D155-1 w/ M/S Ripper
WHEELED LOADERS - *(2) CATERPILLAR 988B; *CATERPILLAR 966D; *(4) CATERPILLAR 966C, *DAEWOO MEGA 400, *SAMSUNG SL180, *SAMSUNG LX282; *SAMSUNG LX25, *SAMSUNG LX10
HYDRAULIC EXCAVATORS - *CATERPILLAR EL300B, *CATERPILLAR EL300; *CATERPILLAR 235B, *SAMSUNG (1993) MX6 LCM
WHEELED EXCAVATOR - HALLA (1992) 888P
TRUCK MOUNTED BACKHOE - ISUZU B240SLC
COMPACTION - Smooth Drum Vibratory Rollers - *DYNAPAC CC42A, *DYNAPAC CC21-II, DYNAPAC CC20 Tandem, Wheeled Pneumatic Rollers - WATANABE WP15 II; SAKAI KR15 II, MITSUBISHI II Wheel Pneumatic, Walk Behind & Hand Held - MIKASA Vibratory Walk Behind, WACKER/MIKASA MTR-80HR Tamping Rammers, WACKER/MIKASA 0040 Plate Compactors
CRANES - KOEHRING 25T Cap Truck Crane on NISSAN Chassis; 50T Cap. Lattice Boom Crawler, KAWANISHI 2T Cap Hydraulic Boom Jib Crane
DRILLING, BORING AND PILING - *LLAMADA (1996) P100TT Crawler Type Pile Driver; *INGERSOLL RAND LM470 Hydraulic Air Trac Drill, (2) INGERSOLL RAND ECM 350 Extendable Air Trac Drills, (2) INGERSOLL RAND CM351VL Air Trac Drills, Asstd Non-operational Air Trac Drills
COMPRESSORS - *INGERSOLL RAND XP750WCU Portable, (3) INGERSOLL RAND XP750SCA Portable, ATLAS COPCO XA85DD Portable, COMPAIR HYDROVANE 75CFM Portable, (2) GARDNER DENVER SD600 Skid Mounted, Asstd Reciprocating
GENERATORS - (2) CATERPILLAR 3406 250KVA, CATERPILLAR 3306 150KW Trailer Mounted, GENERAL MOTORS 150KW, CUMMINS 150KW, (2) HONDA ER5D Diesel; MEIDENSHA 2X140A 5.5 KVA
ROCK TRUCKS - (9) CATERPILLAR 769C
DUMP TRUCKS - (4) MITSUBISHI 6 x 4 15T Cap.
DROPSIDE TRUCKS - (3) MAN 16.240 4 x 2
TRUCK TRACTORS - IH IHC 9600 6 x 4; MAN 19.240 4 x 2; (2) MAN 30.280; MAN 26.240 6 x 4
SPECIAL PURPOSE TRUCKS - KIA 4 x 2 Water Truck; ISUZU Lube Truck; MAN 26.240 Water Truck
SCRAP VEHICLES Incl. - Forklift Trucks; Utility Vehicles; CAT Rock Trucks; Water Trucks; Shuttle Busses, Dropside Trucks, Truck Tractors, Dump Trucks, etc.
TRAILERS - (3) HONIRON 850 Bag Cap Bulk Carriers; HYSTER 15T Cap Tilting; 15T Cap Tilting, 40T Cap Semi Low Bed; 15T Cap. Semi Low Bed; 30T Cap. Long Bed, High Bed; Dolley, Water Tank
AUTOMOTIVE AND HEAVY EQUIPMENT SPARE PARTS - G.M DIESEL; NISSAN, DEUTZ, ISUZU, CUMMINS, IH Refurbished Diesel Engines; Asstd. Diesel Engines, Asstd. Gear Boxes; Asstd. Transmissions; Asstd. Gear Boxes, Asstd. Differentials; Asstd. Fuel Injection Pumps, A Large Qty. Of Asstd. Bearings, V-Belts; Timing Belts, Clutch Plates; Radiators; Compression Springs; Leaf Springs, Wheel Rims; Asstd. Truck/Heavy Equipment Tyres
MACHINE TOOLS & EQUIPMENT - KEARNEY AND TRACKER, MILWAUKEE S12307, Vertical Miller; 350 x 3000mm Centre Lathe; COLCHESTER TRUMPH 7 ½" Centre Lathe; ESAB THF 400 Electric Arc Welder; Asstd. DAIDEN AC Arc Welders; Pedestal Drill; Bending Rolls, etc.
LOOSE TOOLS & EQUIPMENT - Asstd. Fasteners; Welding Rods; Pipe Threading Tools; Allen Key Wrenches, Asstd. Sockets & Wrenches; Asstd. Chain Blocks, Asstd. Pneumatic Wrenches; Asstd. Bottle Jacks; Oxy/Acetylene Sets, Power Trowels; 'A' Frames; Asstd. Engineers Vices, etc.
MISCELLANEOUS & SCRAPS - IBAG Cone Crusher; Vibrating Screen; Steel Pipe; A large Qty. Of Concrete Beam Molds; A Qty. Of Tees; Wyes, Elbows; Asstd Valves; Asstd Electric Motors; Hose; Chain; Paints & Lacquers; Fire Extinguishers; 2-Way Radio System; Heavy Duty Vacuum Cleaners; Asstd. Electric Cable; Platform Scales; Asstd ROBIN Engines; Steel Cable; A Large Qty. Of Rebar; Asstd. Concrete Beams; Fuel/Water Tanks; Transformers; Office Furniture & Equipment, Window Type Air Conditioners, etc.

ON: Thursday 31st May, Friday 1st June - Saturday 2nd June 2001
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DBP

Development Bank of the Philippines

INVITATION TO BID

The Development Bank of the Philippines will receive sealed bids on 30 May 2001 at 2:00 p.m. at the Auditorium of the DBP Head Office, Sen. Gil J. Puyat Ave., cor. Makati Ave., Makati City for the following properties on CASH BASIS:

CODE	LOCATION	DESCRIPTION	MINIMUM BID
REAL ESTATE			
METRO MANILA			
LDA-137 a	428 Inocencio St., San Roque, Pasay City	253.70 m² adjoining residential lots (TCT Nos. 119287 and 126066) with 4-door apartment type residential building	P 2,520,100.00
LJG-96	28 Chico Road, Potrero, Malabon	164 m² residential lot (TCT No. M-21189) with two-storey residential building	P 1,151,800.00
BULACAN			
VCP-19	No. 78 Dr. Teofilo Santiago St., Poblacion, Sta. Maria	250 m² residential/semi-commercial lot (TCT No. T-18584 P(M) with three-storey residential building and improvements thereon.	P 3,200,000.00
CAVITE			
LRD-114	J Soriano St., Bo. Ligtong IV, Rosario	9,922 m² agro-residential lots (TCT Nos. T-899531 and T-899532) utilized as salt bed and fishpond.	P 9,922,000.00
VCP-46	Bo. Iruhin, Tagaytay City	1,500 m² vacant residential lot (TCT No. T-36905) with fence	P 4,776,300.00
LRD-108b & 108c	Lot 11 & 13, Cherry St., Greenfield Subd., Bo. Silangan, Rosario	Two (2) parcels of vacant residential lot each with 216 m² (TCT Nos. T-896707 and 899528) with fence	P 655,400.00 (per lot)
ZAMBALES			
LDA-137B	Bo. Lucapon, Sta. Cruz	6,639 m² agro-residential lot (TCT No. 48082)	P 2,627,800.00
CHATTELS (Sale on "as-is, where-is" and per unit basis)			
VJC (79b1-79b14)	FMI's Warehouse, National Road, Masagana Homes, Phase III, Bgy. Tabang, Guiguinto, Bulacan	15 units of various machineries and equipment for steel fabrication.	P 3,700.00 to P 255,000.00/unit
LDA (126a-126f)	La Campana Compound, EDSA, Balintawak, Q.C.	6 units of various machineries and equipment for fabrication of steel furniture/metal accessories.	P 7,000.00 to P 70,000.00/unit
VJC (90a1-90a12)	La Campana Compound, EDSA, Balintawak, Q.C.	18 units Edging Machines with table, stand and motor	P 5,000.00 to P 37,900.00/unit
VJC (90b1-90b7)	La Campana Compound, EDSA, Balintawak, Q.C.	16 units straight sewing machines with table, stand and motor.	P 8,700.00 to P 43,700.00/unit
VJC (90c1-90c5)	La Campana Compound, EDSA, Balintawak, Q.C.	16 units Embroidery sewing machine with table, stand and motor.	P 5,900.00 to P 43,300.00/unit
VJC (90d1-90d8)	La Campana Compound, EDSA, Balintawak, Q.C.	13 units various machineries for garments manufacuring with standard accessories.	P 10,000.00 to P 43,700.00/unit

DBP RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, TO WAIVE ANY FORMALITY THEREIN, OR TO ACCEPT SUCH BIDS AS MAY BE CONSIDERED MOST ADVANTAGEOUS TO THE BANK. THE DECISION OF THE BANK IS FINAL AND BINDING.

For inquiries, please call telephone numbers:

892-3836 or 818-9511 loc. 2128 for Code starting with L; and
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(PDI – May 17 & 18, 2001)

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ON VIEW: Tuesday, 22nd May 2001, 9:00am - 5:00pm
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Goodyear celebrates Asian revolution

TEXT AND PHOTOS
BY VERNON B. SARNE

BANGKOK—Goodyear has always claimed to be "one revolution ahead." We saw the proof here as the tire industry giant assembled nearly 800 of its dealers from all across Asia in an impressive display of strength and unity.

The event, dubbed "Neovation 2001: The Power of Goodyear Asia," saw Goodyear Asia-Pacific president Hugh D. Pace presented the company's tried and tested marketing strategies before dealers from the Philippines, Korea, China, Hong Kong, Taiwan, India, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Nepal, Pakistan, Myanmar, Cambodia, Vietnam, Malaysia, Singapore, Brunei, Indonesia and Thailand.

Aided by major stage productions and dazzling laser lights, Goodyear highlighted the importance of its seven marketing strengths: neo-distribution; neo-service; neo-advertising and promotion; product quality; innovation; and the Trinuum technology. The latter is basically the collective effort of Goodyear's three global development centers, combining the United States' creativity, Japan's design, and Europe's engineering.

Continuing this revolution are two new tires that have just been made available to Asian markets: the Eagle NCT5 and the GT3. The Eagle NCT5, manufactured in Thailand, is a high-performance tire for compact and midsize sedans. It features extra-large center grooves, diagonal blading, four pitch block sequence, shoulder decoupling grooves, and radial shoulder blades. The Indonesia-made GT3, meanwhile, is a broad market radial that boasts the tiremaker's Bubble-Blade tread block design, enhanced tread compound, new pitching sequence, and center-line tie-bars. The Bubble-Blade design features concave cups and convex domes that interlock for superior handling.

NEOVATION 2001
THE POWER OF GOODYEAR ASIA

GOODYEAR commences a new revolution with tires like the Eagle NCT5 and the GT3.

Goodyear Phils. marketing manager Emmanuel Sanchez said that they are looking to capture 50 percent of the NCT5's and the GT3's respective segments. He also disclosed that a new-generation 4x4 performance tire is arriving in the Philippines later this year. The GT3, according to Goodyear Phils. original equipment manager Rey Ibarra, will find itself wrapped around the alloys of the Honda City, the current Toyota Corolla and the Kia Pride. The NCT5, he said, has already been fitted on 1.5-liter Honda Civics and will most likely grace the wheels of the coming new Corolla.

EAGLE NCT5

GT3

Goodyear also used the event to introduce two new product lines, Fulda and Kelly, from Germany and the United States, respectively.

We can expect more trailblazing tires from Goodyear in the coming days. Its revolution is only just beginning.

Smooth driving is always a luxury

FULL TANK
Al S. Mendoza

LIKE last Good Friday, I had a smooth ride coming back to Manila from Pangasinan on Monday, Election Day.

It's easy to explain.

That day, most of the folk left their cars at home and walked to their precincts to cast their votes. The good turnout of voters (85 percent) contributed to the almost jam-free roads.

My trip to Manila from my hometown where I voted did not take me three hours. Usually, it took me about four hours to cover the trip (about 180 km). The Romulo Highway from Mangatarem to Tarlac was like a huge playground minus the kids playing. You can even call it a God-forsaken place, what with the absence of the usual fleet of vehicles that usually cram for space on the highways of Romulo and MacArthur.

Even the dreaded jams along the North Expressway were gone. Gosh, the turtle-pace ride on the approaches of the bridges in Meycauayan, Bocaue and Valenzuela disappeared like soap bubbles.

How I wish I could travel that way on days other than Good Friday and Election Day.

* * *

When will the widening of the North Expressway really be completed? When will the bridges now being widened in Meycauayan, Bocaue and Valenzuela be completed?

The North Expressway was built in the '60s yet. Its rehabilitation is long overdue.

Isn't it also about time to build another expressway to shorten the traveling time from Manila to the western parts of Pangasinan, the Hundred Islands of Alaminos being a national tourist spot in the first place?

We're not really a nation of road priorities.

In the United States, we see freeways being constructed, if not expanded, almost every month.

Sad to say but we're still a Third World country as far as infrastructure is concerned.

* * *

Just before the elections, many roads in the metropolis have been dug up, ostensibly for repairs.

Alas, many of the roads ripped apart have remained just that—unrepaired. One big hole along the Quezon Elliptical Circle in front of Visayas Avenue has remained unfixed. Huge jams occur there almost every day.

When will they finally repair that, smoothen out roads ripped apart before May 14, is now the question begging for a quick answer.

* * *

And since we are on the subject of roads, what about the humps?

Show me a village, or a subdivision if you wish, that has no humps and I'll show you a river that has no water.

Humps are fine but then, it should be the job of homeowners' associations to paint yellow lines on them to warn motorists of their existence.

Many accidents happen because of "invisible" humps. Sometimes, a pregnant passenger gets the bump of her life because of a driver's failure to slow down for not noticing a hump.

I'm glad that in the village that I live in, the officials of the homeowners' association are pro-residents in that they make it a policy to paint our humps with yellow lines when the need arises.

Perhaps, the city/municipal councils should pass a bill/resolution requiring barangays/village associations to make humps painted with yellow lines once a year.

That's thinking safety at all times.

* * *

QUOTE ME. It's nice to have a driver. But don't quit driving altogether. It helps you sharpen your reflexes, if not maintain balance in your faculties.

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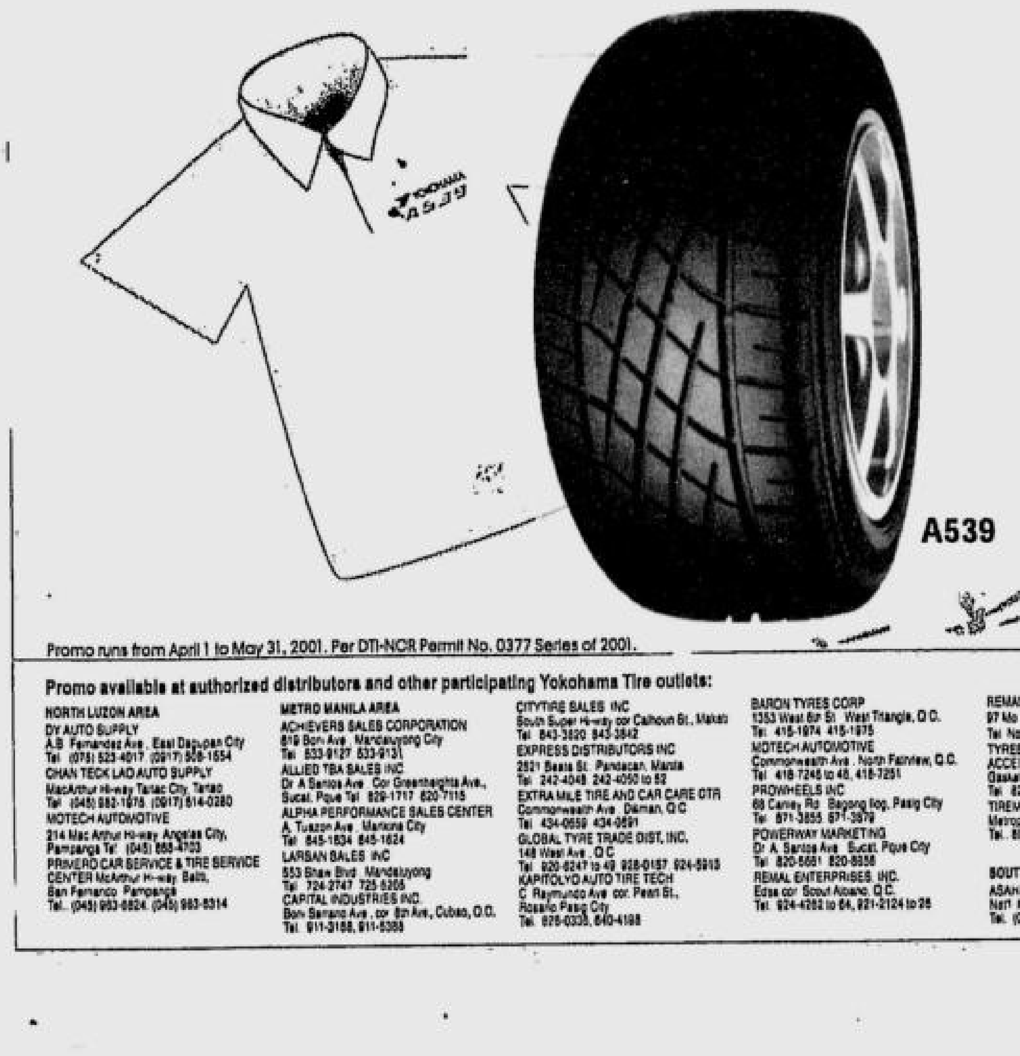

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MOTORING

CESAR D. MANGAWANG, Editor

Auto industry awaits tariff refund decision

BY TESSA R. SALAZAR

FROM 3 TO 10, then 10 to 3.

These figures are not the People Power Coalition-Puwersa ng Masa ratio in the national elections but the tariff rate rollback for the auto industry issued last month.

Executive Order 11 amending EO 334 that increased tariff rates for completely knocked down spare parts for Asian utility vehicles (AUV), trucks, buses from 3 to 10 percent last January brought back the tariff rates from 10 percent to 3 percent during the last week of April.

The issue that remains today is how the industry would get the tariff refund of its member-assemblers from the Bureau of Customs.

Tariff oversight

In January, a tariff oversight was committed when modifications were being done on tariffs on Asian utility vehicles, vans, trucks and buses. The 7-percent extra rate previously charged on commercial vehicles affected the auto sector. Commercial vehicles reportedly accounted for 60 percent of total industry sales. The extra tariff, said local assemblers, cost them about P100 million a month in additional costs. Toyota, for instance, said it incurred about P25 million in additional taxes.

With the decrease in sales performance of the industry from January to April by 16 percent as compared to the same period last year, a reimbursement for their extra duty payments to be retroactive becomes a welcome respite, said auto industry observers. This is apart from the production costs that have escalated due to the depreciation of the peso.

Early retrieval of refund

"The problem of the commercial vehicle and truck assemblers and other auto firms affected is how to get the refund soon. If you have to go through the same process, it may take months," said Sadi Saguisag, Ford Motor Philippines' officer for government affairs.

Ford Motor Philippines, which imports CKD commercial vehicle parts of the Ford Ranger, is reportedly not as affected as AUV makers Toyota, Mitsubishi and Isuzu. Toyota Motor Philippines, for instance, sells an average 1,000 units of its Revo monthly, while Mitsubishi's Adventure averages sales of 600 to 700 units a month, excluding Mitsubishi commercial vehicles. Isuzu Philippines, meanwhile, has overpaid about P60 million as a result of the 7-percent tariff increase, said Isuzu's Eric Talag. Isuzu, he added, is not only concerned with the more than 300 units of Hilander CKD units a month. There's also a large volume to worry about. These are Isuzu pickups, light trucks and other Isuzu commercial vehicles.

Tedious process

Observers noted that the reason reimbursements may take long was the payment that already went to the national coffers. Reimbursements would now have to go through the tedious process of disbursing government funds.

"The refund issue is vague up to now. We still do not know if there's a chance if we could refund it. We have no news yet of what the government's position is," said an official of Mitsubishi Motor Philippines Corp. who refused to be named.

"We don't know at this time what kind of scheme available that the government can offer to us so that we can be refunded the soonest possible time. From what I heard, the only available scheme is the tax credit scheme," said Talag.

He added that the cattle industry—which had almost the same fate in tariff as the auto sector—has been talking to the government. Talag added that if the cattle industry can come up with a good proposal, he hopes it can also work for the auto industry.

Offsetting the overpayment is also possible, he added, such as deduction of succeeding charge of future imports.

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'Whoa! Was that a Volvo?'

ON THE ROAD

Aida Sevilla-Mendoza

WHENEVER the press presentation of a new Volvo is held in Metro Manila, I invariably overhear a motoring journo say, "I was overtaken by a Volvo once. I was so angry." Angry, because he couldn't catch up with the Volvo.

Volvo's effort to project a new image as the maker of powerful, high-performance luxury cars matching BMWs prompted an international weekly newsmagazine to use as the title of an article thereon some years back, "Whoa! Was that a Volvo?" It reflected the awe inspired by Volvo's new turbo-charged engines, what with the 240-bhp Volvo S70 and the 272-bhp S80 T6 as recent examples.

Last month, Viking Cars Inc., the sole Philippine distributor of Volvos, added the S60 to its model range. What makes the S60 different from other Volvo sedans is its billing as a driver's car, a wide-tracked, turbo-charged four-door sports saloon with handling characteristics challenging the BMW 3 Series' legendary steering precision. In other words, the S60 is engineered and designed to be driven not by a chauffeur, but by its owner. And a well-heeled owner one must be, to afford the P2,195,000 price tag of the 2.0T variant. (Still, it's P200,000 less expensive than the BMW 328i.)

Motoring journos looked forward to the press preview/test drive to Tagaytay Highlands of the S60, having read in car zines about the 250 bhp max power and 330 Nm max torque of the T5 variant. Unfortunately, the S60s used for the test drive to Tagaytay did not include a T5.

Nonetheless, the S60 T5 (P2,600,000) will be sold by Viking Cars as well as the S60 2.0T. Except for a T5 or a 2.0T insignia on the rear of the car, the two variants look exactly the same. Sized between the entry-level Volvo S40 and top-of-the-line S80, the S60 has the aerodynamic curves, strong waistline and elegant large taillights of the S80 and the low sloping roofline of the Volvo C70 Coupé. Its cab-forward design, short front and rear overhangs and dome-shaped trunk give it a sporty, powerful look, not to mention the only three-spoke steering wheel in the entire Volvo model range.

While revving up a fun-to-drive reputation, however, Volvo has remained faithful to its safest-car-in-the-world mantra and environment-friendly policy. The S60 has front and side airbags, inflatable curtain, whiplash protection, side impact protection system, anti-submarining on all seats, auto-dim rear-view mirror, three-point inertia-reel safety belts on all seats with pyrotechnic pretensioners, alarm system with keyless entry and immobilizer.

Getting into the driver's seat of an S60 is like climbing into the cockpit of a plane, what with the gauges and controls grouped in the driver's direct line of vision, the high-level center console and the deeply sculpted front seats. The audio system (in-dash CD player, tuner and cassette player) has 8 speakers, the aircon has air vents in the B-pillar, there is an exterior temperature gauge but it may be somewhat inaccurate. Other extras: a GSM phone with hands-free function and with keypad integrated in the center console and extra handset in the front center armrest, driver's power seat with memory, electrically foldable rear headrest, foldable rear seat backrests, attachment hooks for small items, cupholders front and rear.

On the road, the S60 2.0T did not disappoint as it lived up to its claim of stability and minimal untidy lateral movements in a closely strung series of fast corners at the Tagaytay Midlands. Since the S60 has the widest track in its class—it is built on the same platform as the S80 although it has a shorter wheelbase—and its torsional rigidity is twice that of the bigger S70, its handling and road-gripping ability are exceptionally sharp. The S60's anti-lock brake system, electronic brake distribution and anti-dive geometry ensure stability under heavy braking, while the especially tuned MacPherson struts with lower wishbones in front and multilink suspension with low roll center in the rear guarantee riding comfort. The well-tuned chassis and well-balanced weight distribution afforded by the S60's short front and rear overhangs contribute to quicker steering response and driving pleasure.

The 5-cylinder, 20-valve 2.0-liter light pressure turbo powerplant of the S60 2.0T can produce 180 bhp @ 5,300 rpm and max torque of 240 Nm @ 2,200-5,300 rpm and hit a top speed of 210 kilometers per hour. When the S60 was loaned to me over the weekend, I checked it out on the Skyway and reached 190 kph without experiencing wind noise or vibration. The S60's 5-speed automatic transmission upshifted and downshifted smoothly and swiftly, like silk. This time, it must have been the turn of the drivers I overtook to wonder, "Whoa! Was that a Volvo?"

* * *

TODAY'S BUMPER STICKER: If you can read this bumper sticker, turn off your (expletive deleted) fog lights!

* * *

E-mail comments to aida_sevilla @pacific.net.ph.

All-new Musso Sport Select now available in RP market

WHEN it comes to choosing a vehicle to suit your lifestyle, much consideration has to be made for a vehicle you can take anywhere you want to go. And on top of engine performance, luxurious amenities and a high regard for safety, the vehicle you choose has to make you look good and should speak of the kind of image you want to project.

Which is quite timely that the 2001 Musso Sport Select SUV now comes to market with more value-added features for the discriminating professional

Since its introduction to the Philippines in 1997, the Musso has elicited much praise both for its finely designed and crafted exterior and its outstanding performance on and off the road. This distinctive design—with its long wheelbase, wide track and low profile—has twice been named "Best 4x4" at the UK's Birmingham International Motor Show.

Outstanding qualities

Inside, the Musso beats the heart of a true champion. Its Mercedes-Benz engine makes sure you get power each time you demand for it. The new Musso Sport Select still has the same bold, angular lines that evoke an elegant and powerful demeanor—qualities that make it stand out on and off the road.

Its 2.3-liter inline 4-cylinder SOHC Turbo Intercooler diesel engine carries with it the high standards of excellence and reliability Mercedes has been known for. This power is more obvious when driving in the tough outdoors, where the Musso performs confidently. Surprisingly, it does this with fuel efficiency and strict emphasis on driver comfort. The Musso has a low drag coefficient of 0.424, which is impressive for an SUV of this size. With less air to push, its aerodynamic shape contributes to improved fuel economy and less wind noise.

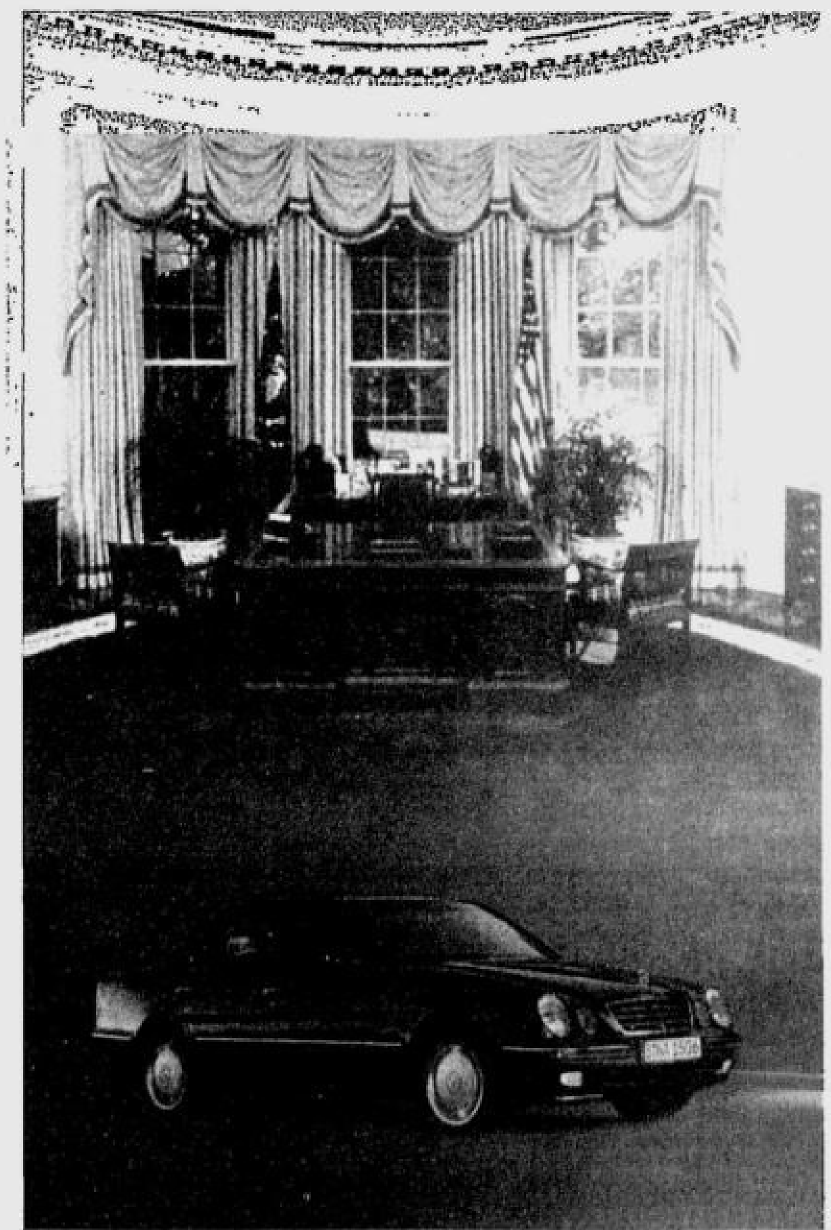
Cost, colors, amenities

Musso's road-hugging double-wishbone front, 5-link coil-spring rear suspension and power-assisted rack and pinion steering take you where you want to go. Its high clearance of 195 mm from the ground adds to this vehicle's superb on-road comfort and off-road agility.

The SUV, which is handsomely crafted, technically superior and powered to the extreme, costs about P1.17 million. Good thing it comes in five two-tone color combinations to suit varying preferences—jasper blue, copper red, brilliant black, solarized silver and grand white.

Other standard amenities include front torsion bars and rear coil suspension, AM/FM cassette 4 speaker audio system alloy wheels, high-strength steel door with impact beam and remote keyless entry system.

Find out what other SUVs aspire to be. Check out the new Musso Sport Select SUV now at all branches and dealers of Commercial Motors Corp.



You don't have to be highly placed to be in the seat of power.

The new Mercedes-Benz E-240 2.6 L.

▸ The new 2.6 L engine for the E-240 with output of 125 kw/170 hp significantly improves performance and optimizes fuel consumption, giving you both power and economy.

▸ The displacement of the 2.4 litre V6 engine has been increased to 2.6 litres. Along with this comes an increased in the maximum torque to 240 Nm at 4,500 rpm. Benefiting from the characteristics of the increased torque, acceleration from 0 to 100 km/h has improved to 10.0 seconds.

▸ Fuel consumption for the 2.6 L is remarkable at 9 km/liter on the average considering its powerful engine.

▸ Experience pure power in the new Mercedes-Benz E-240 2.6 L. If you can't stand the suspense, visit our Mercedes-Benz showroom or any of our authorized dealers.

Mercedes-Benz
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THURSDAY, MAY 17, 2001 PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
LIFESTYLE
CHELO BANAL-FORMOSO, Editor
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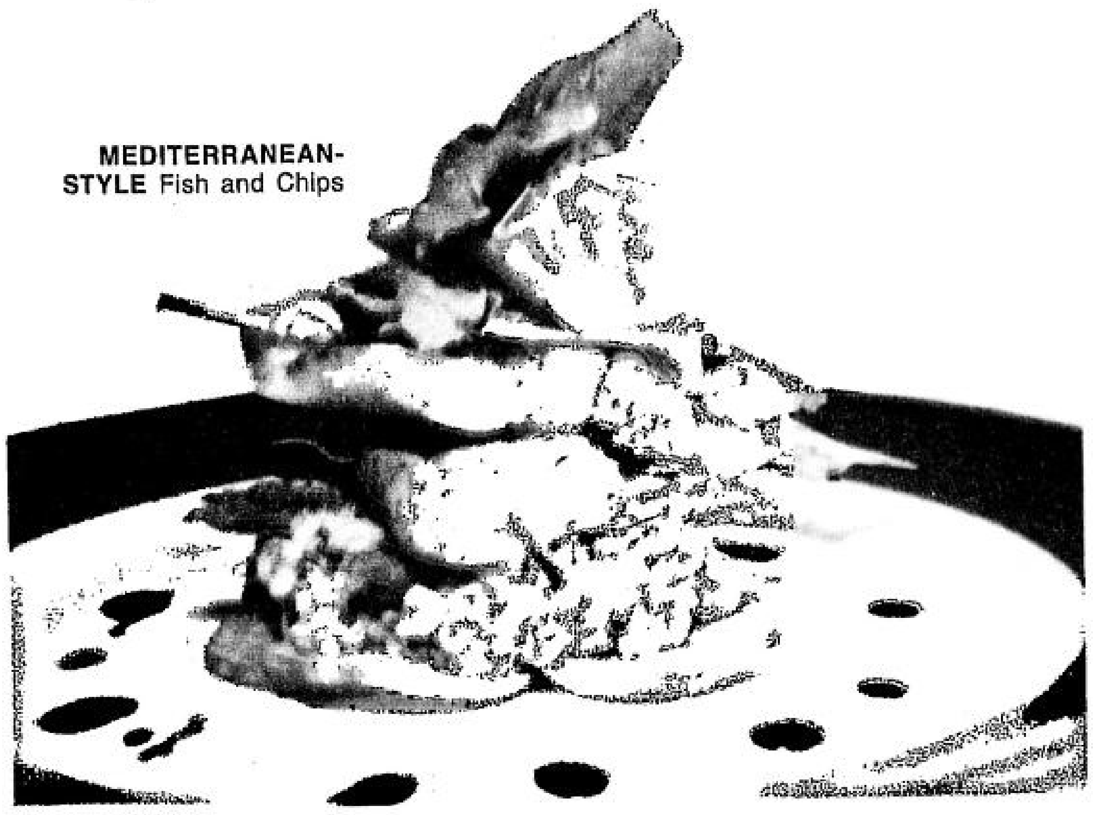

MEDITERRANEAN-STYLE Fish and Chips

LINGUINE ai Gamberoni con Pesto

Mediterranean medley

By Rowena C. Burgos
Photos by Romy Homillada

SHEILA Romero, Azzurro's chair and CEO

GLORIETTA remains one of Makati City's great eating places, and a good restaurant to begin with is Azzurro Bistro and Winebar (tels. 729-5800 or 0917-5181543). Located at Level 1, Glorietta 4, Ayala Center, Makati, it's an oasis of gourmet offerings, hushed voices, wood-carved panels and brass chargers.

Established in July 1999, the 80-seater Azzurro (an Italian word which means blue) has for its motif the hues of the sun and the sea. The ceiling and the floor have been designed as rays of the sun. The Mediterranean Sea and its environs are painted on one wall.

And although Azzurro lacks a seaside setting, its Mediterranean-style Fish and Chips (deep-fried herb and saffron beer-battered fillet of fish with balsamic vinegar, home cut chips and classic tartar sauce) can take one, at least briefly, to a small Aegean island.

There's no nicer way to while away an afternoon or evening than with Greek Mezze Plate (Middle Eastern flat bread, chickpea hummus, black olive tapenade, cucumber rita and babaganoush) and tea selections like Lemon, English Breakfast, Orange Spice, Earl Gray, Ceylon, Cinnamon Apple Spice, Peppermint, Heart Health, Sleepy Time, Green Tea and Tension Tamer.

If you're looking for real pizza, the restaurant's young culinary team, headed by chef Philip John Golding, transforms flour, cheese and tomatoes into magnificent creations: Margherita, Say Cheese, Seafood and Pepperoni which have the taste of southern Italy.

"What Azzurro offers is Mediterranean cuisine given a contemporary twist. It's not fusion," emphasizes Sheila B. Romero, chair and CEO of Azzurro.

A graduate of Economics and Finance from De La Salle University, Sheila used to run a franchise of

MEDITERRANEAN/p.C3

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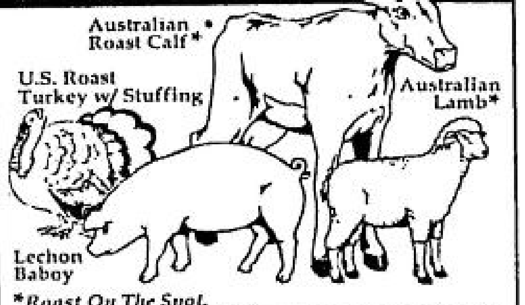
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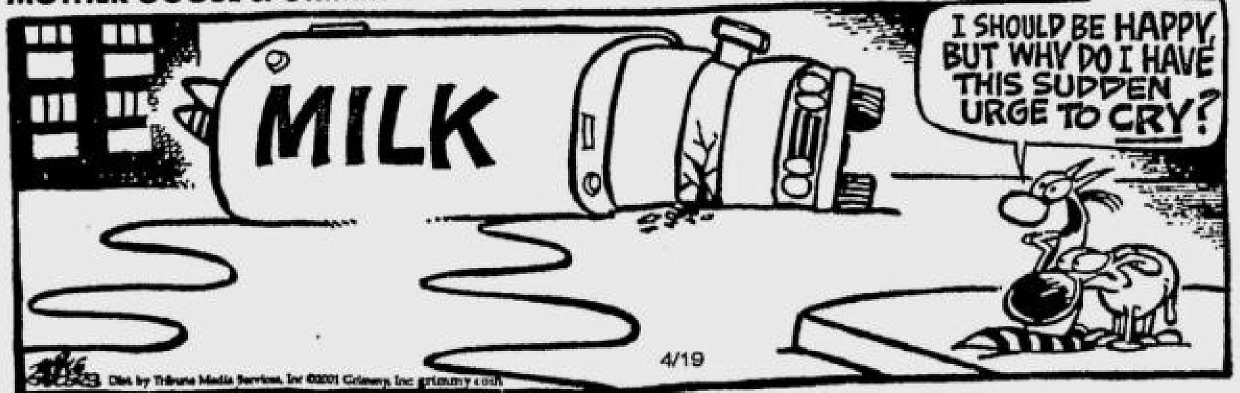
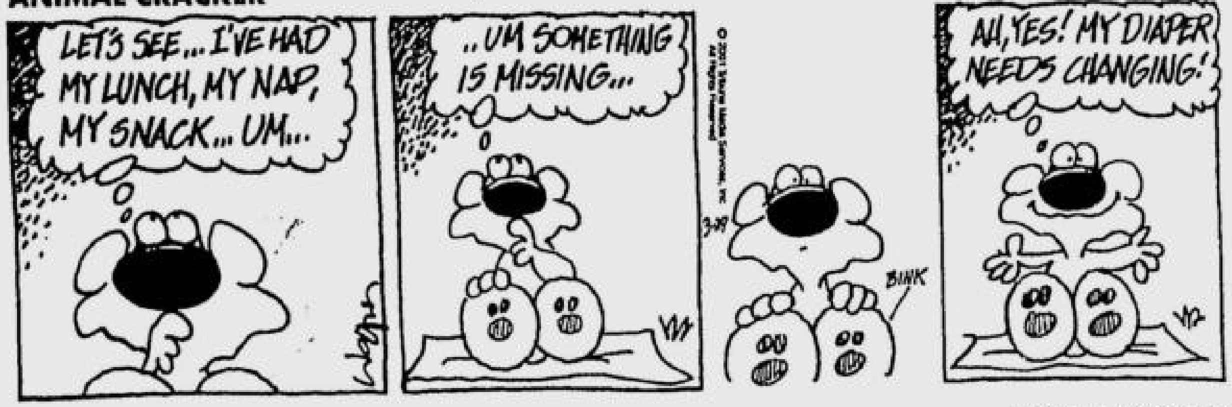
o kaya sa Caballero Worldwide Partners,
1503 Medical Plaza, San Miguel Avenue, Origas.
Hurry! This offer is good
for the first 500 respondents only.

COMIC Relief

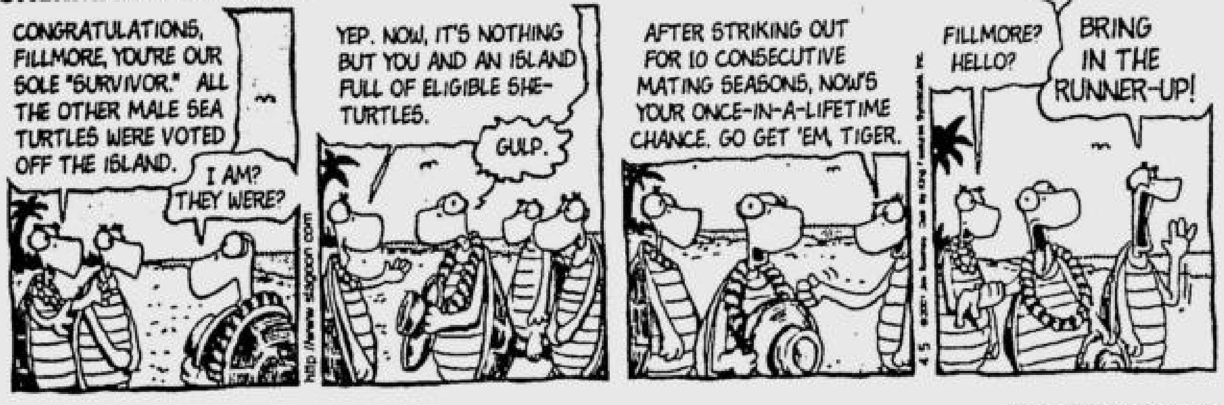
MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM
BY MIKE PETERS


MILK
I SHOULD BE HAPPY, BUT WHY DO I HAVE THIS SUDDEN URGE TO CRY?
4/19
Dist by Tribune Media Services, Inc ©2001 Grimmy, Inc grimmy.com

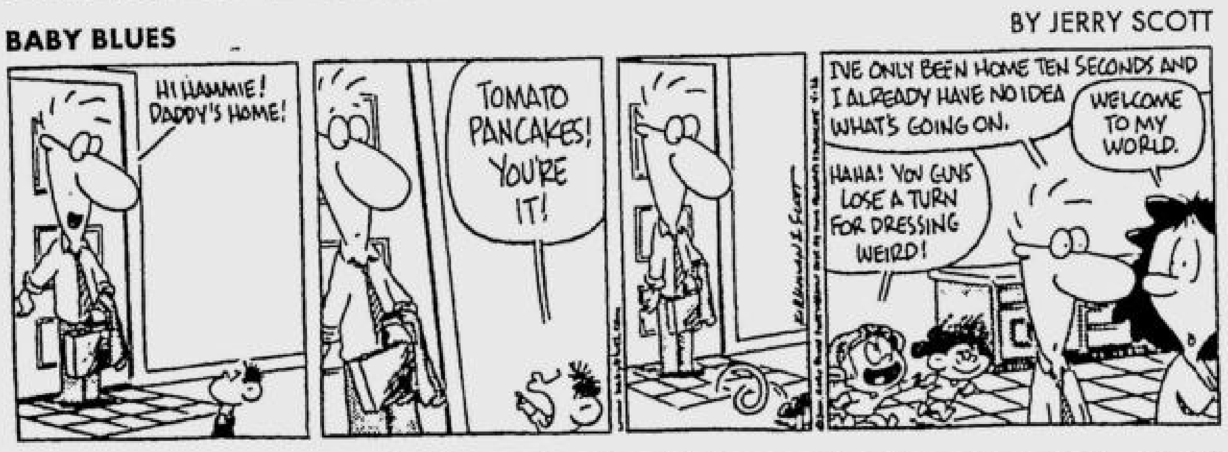
ANIMAL CRACKER
BY FRED WAGNER


LET'S SEE... I'VE HAD MY LUNCH, MY NAP, MY SNACK... UM...
..UM SOMETHING IS MISSING...
BINK
AH, YES! MY DIAPER NEEDS CHANGING!
3-29

SHERMAN'S LAGOON
BY JIM TOOMEY


CONGRATULATIONS, FILLMORE, YOU'RE OUR SOLE "SURVIVOR." ALL THE OTHER MALE SEA TURTLES WERE VOTED OFF THE ISLAND.
I AM? THEY WERE?
YEP. NOW, IT'S NOTHING BUT YOU AND AN ISLAND FULL OF ELIGIBLE SHE-TURTLES.
GULP.
AFTER STRIKING OUT FOR 10 CONSECUTIVE MATING SEASONS, NOW'S YOUR ONCE-IN-A-LIFETIME CHANCE. GO GET 'EM, TIGER.
FILLMORE? HELLO?
BRING IN THE RUNNER-UP!
http://www.slagoon.com

BABY BLUES
BY JERRY SCOTT


HI HAMMIE! DADDY'S HOME!
TOMATO PANCAKES! YOU'RE IT!
I'VE ONLY BEEN HOME TEN SECONDS AND I ALREADY HAVE NO IDEA WHAT'S GOING ON.
WELCOME TO MY WORLD.
HAHA! YOU GUYS LOSE A TURN FOR DRESSING WEIRD!

HOROSCOPE

BY EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Maureen O'Sullivan, Dennis Hopper, Sugar Ray Leonard, Debra Winger, Jordan Knight, Bob Saget, Bill Paxton, Enya

Happy Birthday: Your humble-pie approach to others will win hearts and favors. Once you've established what your game plan is going to be, everything else will fall into place. Romance and friendship will be in the picture this year, so don't hesitate to call someone who's been on your mind and in your heart. Your numbers: 17, 31, 33, 38, 42, 49

ARIES (March 21-April 19): You will be proud of your accomplishments. Recognition will be yours for the time and effort you've offered so generously. You can make interesting career moves if you put your talents to work.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Personal changes will be to your benefit. You will meet exciting new people through interest groups or functions that you attend with your children.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): People around you may be deceptive. Listen carefully and read between the lines. Don't give too much in order to impress others. Lending or borrowing will cost you dearly in the long run.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): You'll be in the mood to argue and nag. Keep your thoughts to yourself both at work and at home. Don't be too quick to judge others or to make changes that will affect those you love.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): It's time to roll up your sleeves and prepare to turn your home into the palace you want to live in. Get friends to pitch in and help. Don't let jealousy lead to an unsavory situation with your lover.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Your practical approach to life will impress someone who interests you. Let him or her know how you feel and what your intentions are. You could find yourself in an ideal relationship.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Don't wear your heart on your sleeve. Your personal secrets will be revealed if you are too open about your feelings. Someone you thought you could trust may be insensitive to your situation.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Follow through on your creative ideas. You will be in the mood to get back into shape and revise your self-image. Don't be afraid to make drastic alterations. The change will be good for you.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Someone you live with is feeling neglected. Try to include him or her in your plans. You've been so busy enjoying yourself that you've forgotten about the one you're supposed to love.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Catch up on overdue correspondence that has been hanging over your head. Changes made to your home will be good for everyone you live with. The money spent will be well worth it.

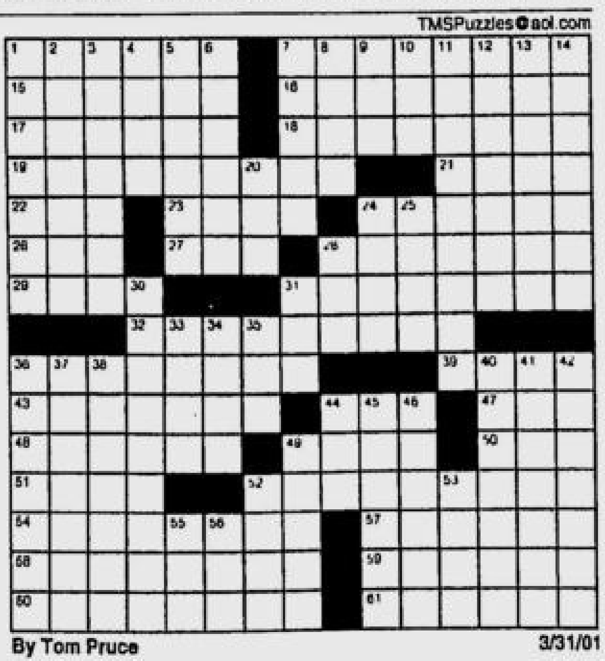
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Be sure to look at the fine print when you go over your personal papers. Some changes will be necessary. Listen carefully to those who have more life experience than you.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Your emotional instability may be a direct result of the way your partner has been treating you. Try to sit down and talk openly and honestly about your concerns.

Birthday Baby: You will want to help everyone with everything. Your sensitive and caring nature will bring you popularity and wisdom. Put your creative talent to good use, and your dreams will be fulfilled.

DAILY CROSSWORD

TMSPuzzles@aol.com



By Tom Pruce
Chicago, IL

3/31/01

ACROSS
1 Fast-lane malady
7 Superlatively spiteful
15 Three-bagger
16 One who applies oil
17 Change place cards
18 French poet Mallarme
19 Lacking awareness
21 Prima donnas' problems
22 Commotion
23 Adjust plugs and points
24 Electricians, at times
26 __ Aviv-Jaffa
27 Sleeper or mole
28 1954 Brando film
29 Earthly paradise
31 Amazon
32 Artificial international language
36 Unwavering
39 "The Avengers" star Diana
43 Annual golf tourneys
44 Part of rpm
47 Med. scan
48 Burns with hot liquid
49 Great review
50 Flash site?
51 Actress Gilbert
52 Pestering persistently
54 Like serials
57 Take out
58 Capable of easing pain
59 Newspaper leader
60 Names in wills
61 Woods deities

DOWN
1 Grooved like muscle
2 Evidenced a tendency
3 Pastry-enclosed croquette
4 Fencer's sword
5 Biases
6 Lays plans for
7 Hindu social class
8 Pot builder
9 Sock's end
10 Pointed end
11 Name in a will
12 Bric-a-brac shelves
13 Spanish gentlemen
14 Ringlets
20 Even one
24 Break from a habit
25 Say it __ sol
28 Meas. across
30 Formation of new tissue
31 Coll. seniors' test
33 Winter coaster
34 Grammatical witticisms
35 UFO pilots
36 Columnist Baker
37 Runaway
38 Flying high
40 Lack of reverence
41 Benefactor
42 Rogers and Baker
44 Average score
45 Gets around
46 Mignonette
49 Tries to outrun
52 Bee's pad
53 Narrow cut
55 Mel of Cooperstown
56 Gaming cube

PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER

B	A	R		E	R	E	C	T		F	E	T	C	H
R	O	E		N	E	V	E	R		E	N	U	R	E
A	R	C		S	T	I	L	E		A	C	R	E	S
I	T	U	S	U	A	L	L	Y		T	A	K	E	S
D	A	R	T	E	R		S	S	E		S	I	D	E
			E	S	S	E			A	M	E	S		
S	A	M	E			S	A	Y	S	O		T	E	D
T	W	O	P	E	O	P	L	E	T	O	M	A	K	E
Y	E	N		R	I	Y	A	L			A	N	E	W
		O	P	A	L			P	S	S	T			
M	U	C	H		S	E	C		O	P	I	N	E	R
O	N	E	O	F		T	H	E	M	A	N	G	R	Y
S	C	R	E	E		H	I	R	E	R		A	I	D
S	L	O	B	S		E	M	I	R	S		I	C	E
Y	E	S	E	S		R	E	E	S	E		O	A	R

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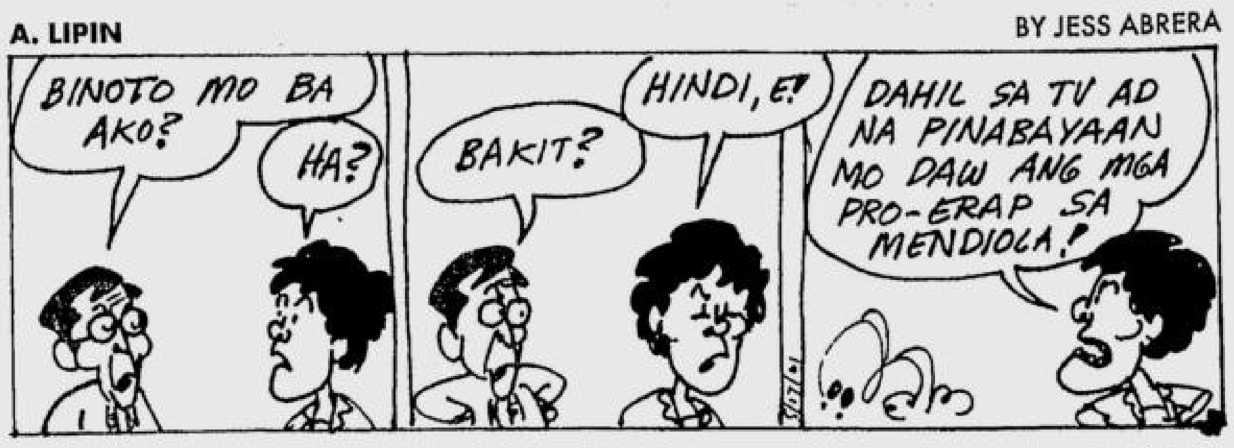
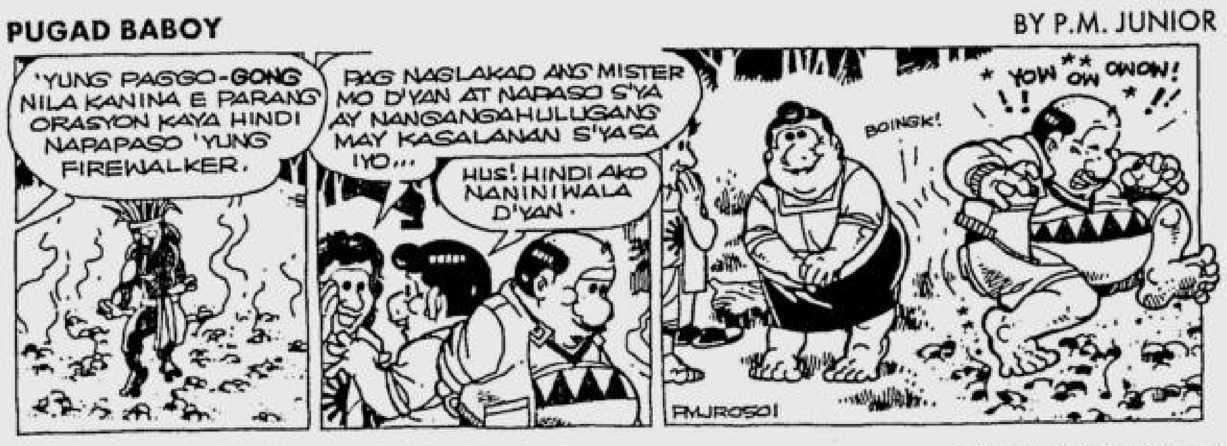
3/31/01

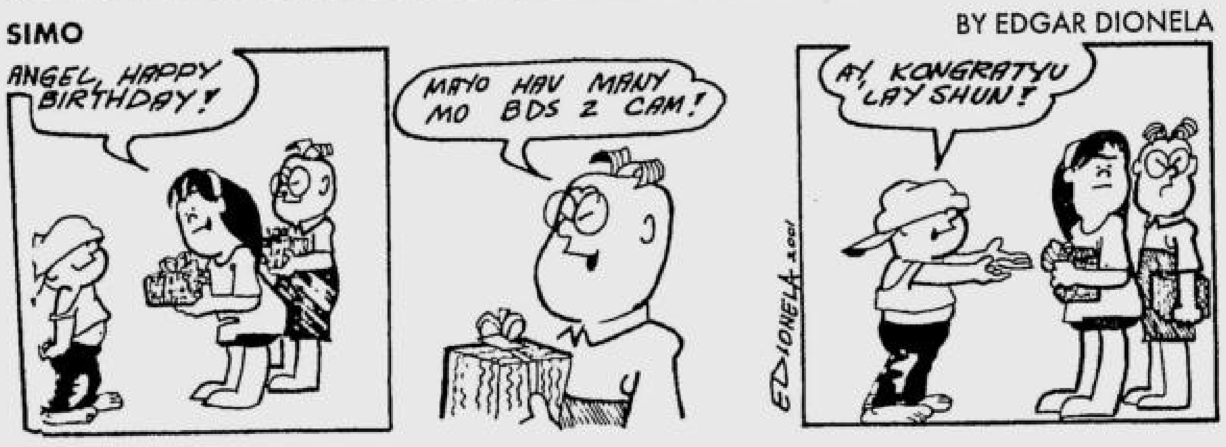
A. LIPIN
BY JESS ABRERA


BINOTO MO BA AKO?
HA?
BAKIT?
HINDI, E!
DAHIL SA TV AD NA PINABAYAAN MO DAW ANG MGA PRO-ERAP SA MENDIOLA!

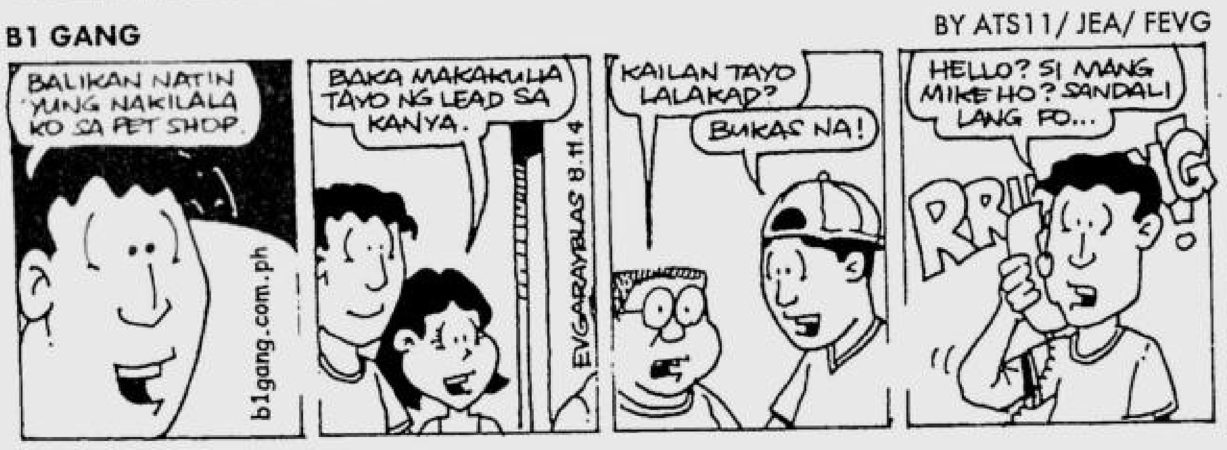
PUGAD BABOY
BY P.M. JUNIOR


'YUNG PAGGO-GONG NILA KANINA E PARANG ORASYON KAYA HINDI NAPAPASO 'YUNG FIREWALKER.
PAG NAGLAKAD ANG MISTER MO D'YAN AT NAPASO S'YA AY NANGANGAHULUGANG MAY KASALANAN S'YA SA IYO...
HUS! HINDI AKO NANINIWALA D'YAN.
BOINGK!
YOW OW OWOW!
PMJR0501

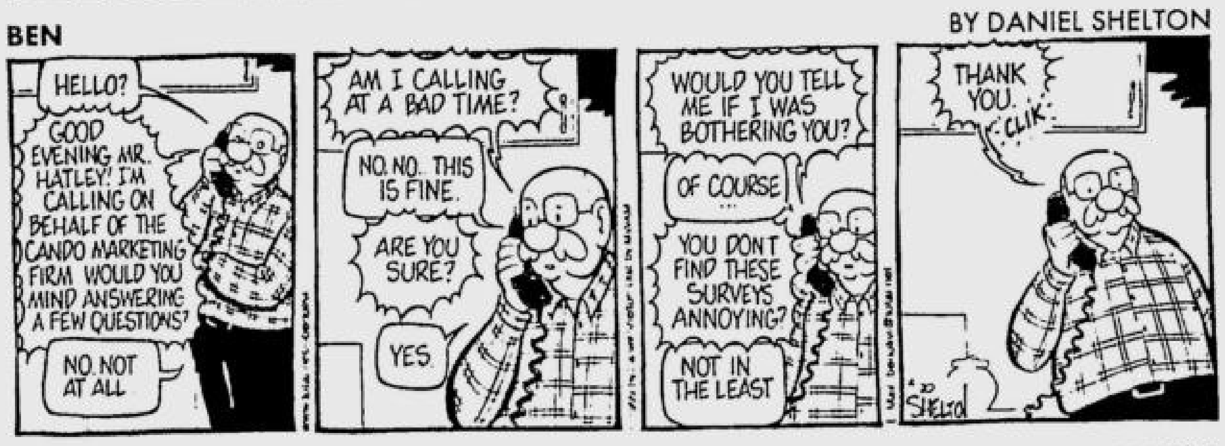
SIMO
BY EDGAR DIONELA


ANGEL, HAPPY BIRTHDAY!
MAYO HAV MANY MO BDS 2 CAM!
AY, KONGRATYU LAYSHUN!
EDIONELA 2001

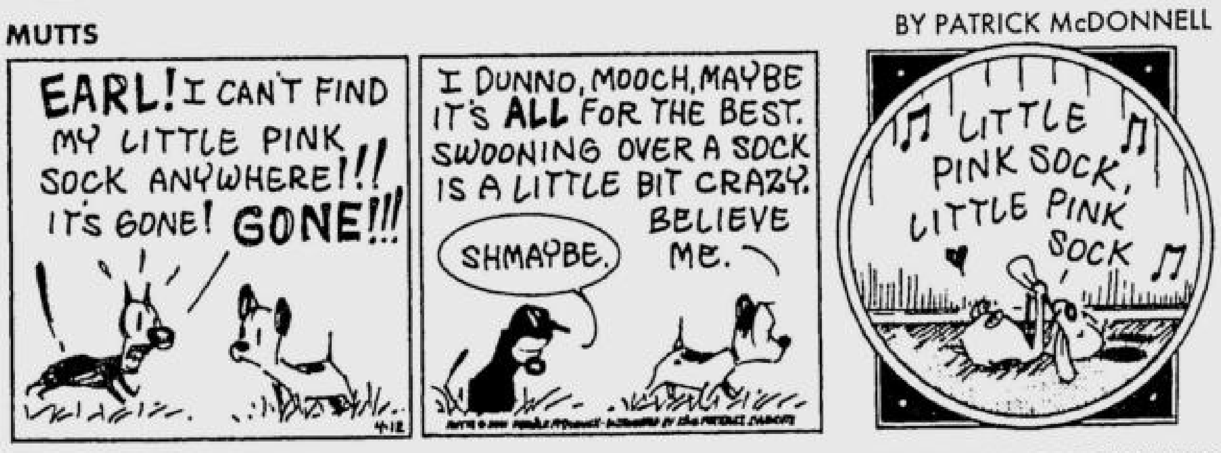
B1 GANG
BY ATS11/ JEA/ FEVG


BALIKAN NATIN YUNG NAKILALA KO SA PET SHOP.
b1gang.com.ph
BAKA MAKAKUHA TAYO NG LEAD SA KANYA.
EVGARAYBLAS 8.11.4
KAILAN TAYO LALAKAD?
BUKAS NA!
HELLO? SI MANG MIKE HO? SANDALI LANG PO...
RRIIING!

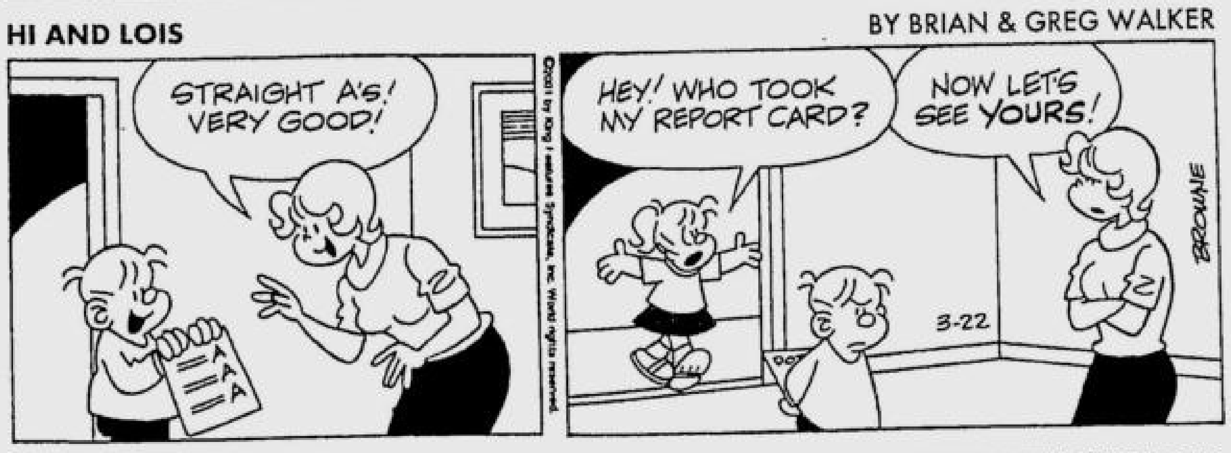
BEN
BY DANIEL SHELTON


HELLO?
GOOD EVENING MR. HATLEY! I'M CALLING ON BEHALF OF THE CANDO MARKETING FIRM. WOULD YOU MIND ANSWERING A FEW QUESTIONS?
NO. NOT AT ALL
AM I CALLING AT A BAD TIME?
NO. NO. THIS IS FINE.
ARE YOU SURE?
YES
WOULD YOU TELL ME IF I WAS BOTHERING YOU?
OF COURSE
YOU DON'T FIND THESE SURVEYS ANNOYING?
NOT IN THE LEAST
THANK YOU.
CLIK
SHELTON

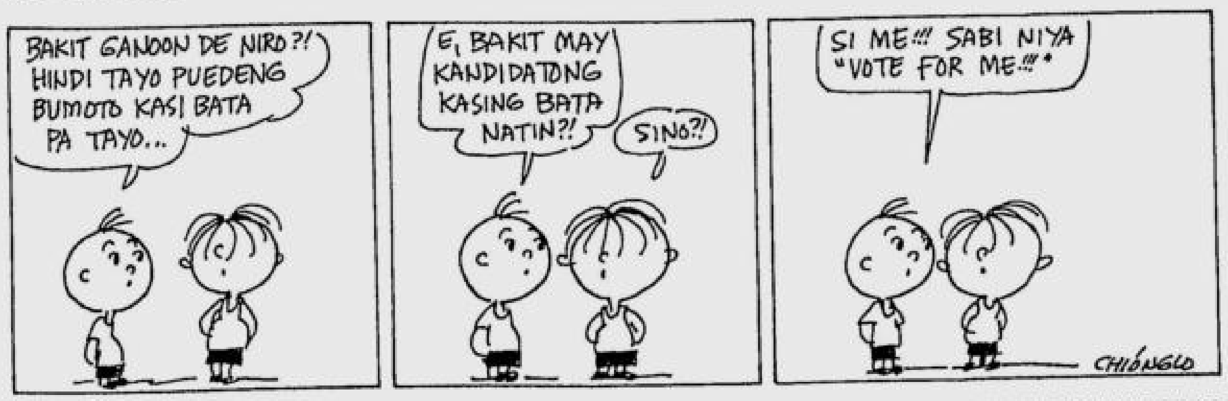
MUTTS
BY PATRICK McDONNELL


EARL! I CAN'T FIND MY LITTLE PINK SOCK ANYWHERE!!! IT'S GONE! GONE!!!
4-12
I DUNNO, MOOCH, MAYBE IT'S ALL FOR THE BEST. SWOONING OVER A SOCK IS A LITTLE BIT CRAZY.
SHMAYBE.
BELIEVE ME.
LITTLE PINK SOCK, LITTLE PINK SOCK

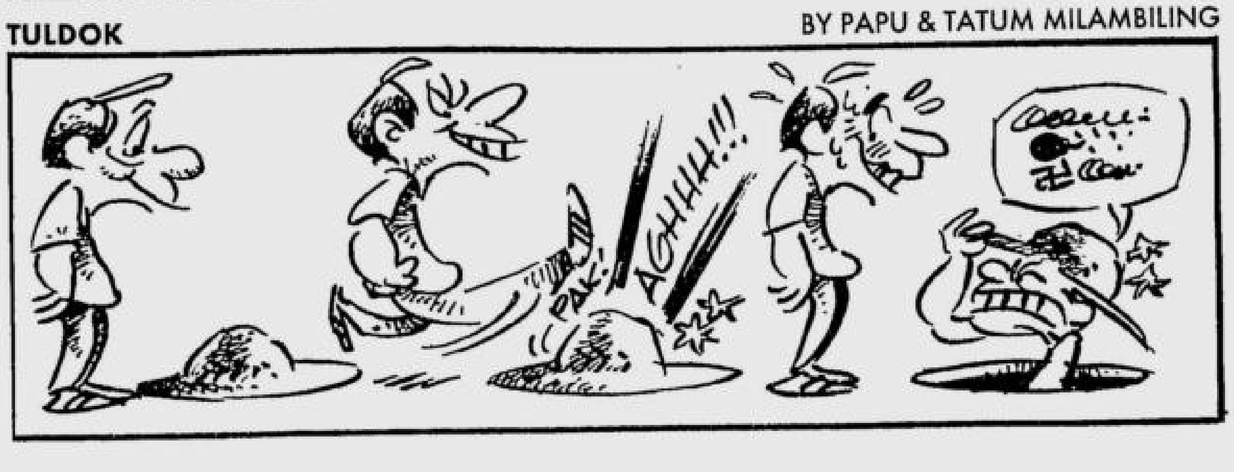
HI AND LOIS
BY BRIAN & GREG WALKER


STRAIGHT A'S! VERY GOOD!
A
A
A
HEY! WHO TOOK MY REPORT CARD?
NOW LET'S SEE YOURS!
3-22
BROWNE

LOVEKNOTS
BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO

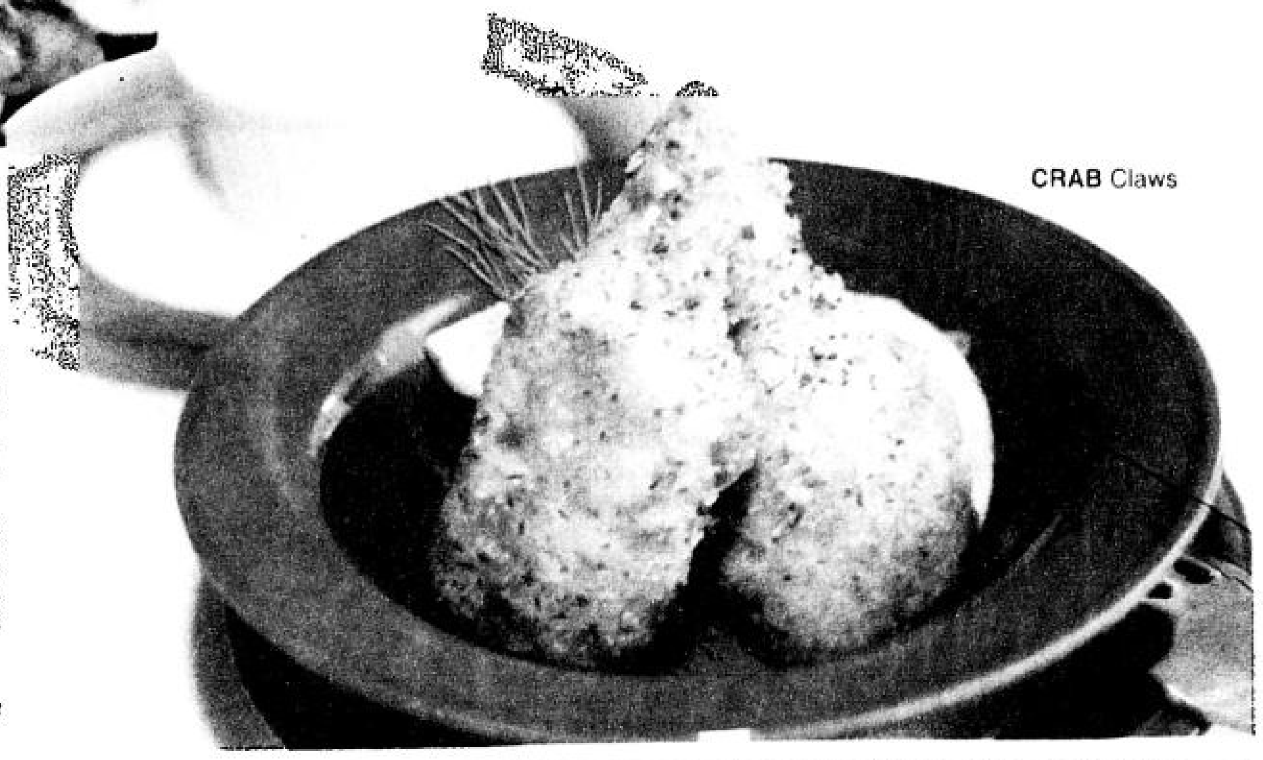

BAKIT GANOON DE NIRO?! HINDI TAYO PUEDENG BUMOTO KASI BATA PA TAYO...
E, BAKIT MAY KANDIDATONG KASING BATA NATIN?!
SINO?!
SI ME!!! SABI NIYA "VOTE FOR ME!!!"
CHIONGLO

TULDOK
BY PAPU & TATUM MILAMBILING



PAELLA Valenciana

SPAGHETTI al Filletto di Tacchino



CRAB Claws

Mediterranean medley

(From page C1)

Bakahan at Manukan on East Avenue, which is owned by her uncle Rod Ongpauco. Putting up her own restaurant has been a long-time dream. "Running a restaurant is not only a matter of liking food or knowing how to cook. It should be a mixture of such factors," she says.

With Azzurro serving formidable plates of Mediterranean food at reasonable prices, Sheila has been confident of the diner's success because "the Filipino palate has become diverse and is now open to a lot of experimentations."

In July, Azzurro Too! bistro and deli will be opened at the Megastrip in Megamall. And it will offer more treats, like the restaurant's bottled specialty sauces, breakfast items and family activities.

Taste of ingenuity

The moment the word "food" comes up, one thinks of Philip John Golding, one of the country's best chefs.

A chef of the defunct Fashion Café in Makati, Golding is not one to serve the same dish twice. He always introduces some variation and garnishes his creations with such originality that in his hands an insignificant lettuce is transformed into a hearty Crisp Caesar Salad or Tuna Nicoise (Iceberg and Romaine lettuce lightly bound with Swiss-style vinaigrette, olives, quail eggs with grilled Davao yellow fin tuna).

He conducts cooking classes on Mediterranean dishes at 9 a.m.-12 noon every Saturday until June 2 at Azzurro.

Azzurro's young team is a joy to watch in the kitchen: wrapped in their aprons, kerchiefs around their heads, juggling wooden spoons, iron pots, mountains of ingredients, bottles of spices, sprigs of herbs and generous dashes of the best brandy. It's hard to describe the aromas issuing from the stockpot, the savor of soup, the texture of chunks of sausage, chicken and beef that melt in your mouth. And after some time of spirited labor in the kitchen, ingenuous dishes of nouvelle cuisine are served.

There are the Chef's Suggestions of Organic Salad, Gindara or Blue Marlin, Red Mullet Fillet, Turkey Spiced Paprika Steak, Fresh Chilled 100% Black Angus Rib Eye Steak and Cubed Pan-roasted Leg of Lamb with garlic, rosemary and honey. Its Summer Pasta Festival, on the other hand, is available from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Symphony of Flavors, set lunch and dinner, is offered at 11 a.m.-11 p.m., Sundays to Thursdays, and at 11 a.m.-2:30 a.m., Fridays to Saturdays.

Aside from appetizers, salads, soups, vegetarian dishes, pizza, seafoods, paella, poultry and game, beef, lamb and pork and desserts, Azzurro also features Tapaz (small portions of food served to complement fine drinks and good conversation) happy hour, 4-7 p.m. daily and 10 p.m. onward, Friday to Sunday.

Romero and her dynamic team at Azzurro lovingly choose the freshest ingredients, prepare them with art and offer them as a gift to both body and soul.

E-mail the author at rburgos@inquirer.com.ph

LA Colleccion

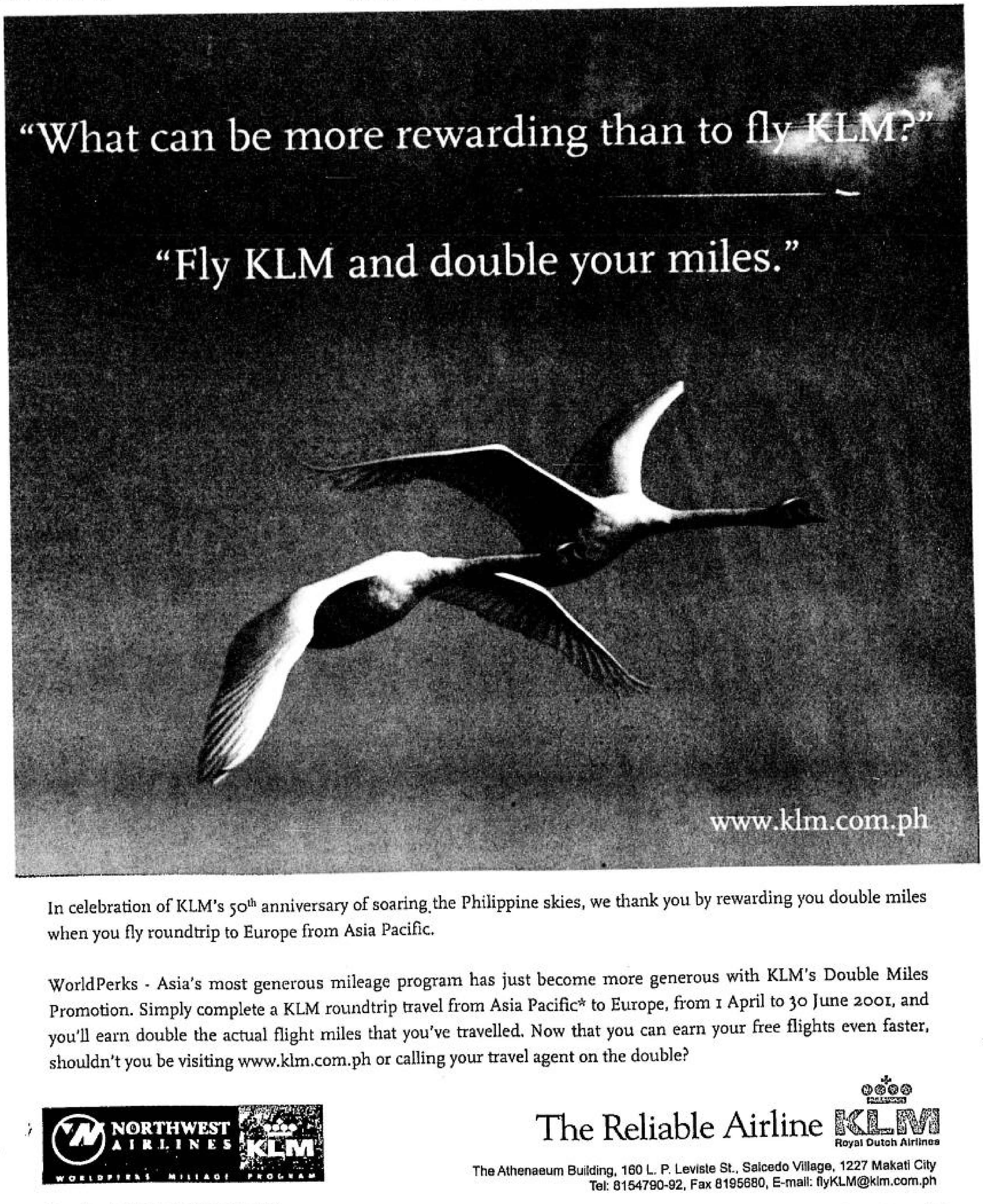
East meets West at Raccoon

THE NEWEST addition to those little comfy restaurants along Jupiter Street in Makati, Raccoon Resto/Bar/Grill serves a unique fusion of East and West cuisine. Chef Nazario Gologabin, whose experience includes a long stay in Palermo, Sicily, whips up the Italian dishes while Chef Bryan Reque, who worked with Furusato Manila and Bahrain and Kodo Japanese Restaurant in Al Khobar, handles the Japanese Teppanyaki, Donburi and noodles concoctions.

Raccoon is geared for night persons. Although it is open for lunch onward, it peaks at 5 p.m. with happy hour, followed by fine dining and just loafing around at 10 p.m. onward. It is open till 3 a.m. As such, early breakfast is served from 12 mn-3 a.m.

CHEF Nazario Gologabin creates Italian dishes at Racoon.

Model-turned-restaurateur Lulu Fresnoza Boon of La Gondola fame oversees Raccoon, which formally opens on May 18, 6 p.m. at 112 Jupiter St., Makati. Call 897-7603.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* Promotion not valid for tickets purchased in Japan.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS • This offer is valid only for WorldPerks members residing in Asia Pacific with return tickets purchased from Asia Pacific (except Japan) to Europe for travel between April 1 to June 30, 2001. • This promotion is only valid for KLM operated flights. • Enrollment in this promotion is required at least 10 days prior to your departure. You must be a WorldPerks member to participate in the promotion. • Travel must originate and end in Asia Pacific. Stopovers are not permitted • Free, no value, infant, child, WorldPerks free award travel, agency/industry discounted tickets, round the world fares, group and tour package tickets are not eligible for this promotion. • This offer is not applicable to Flying Dutchman members. • Mileage will be credited to your WorldPerks account approximately 6-8 weeks after the completion of qualifying travel and reflected in a future WorldPerks mileage summary. • Please keep your boarding passes and ticket copies until the correct mileage is reflected on your WorldPerks mileage summary. • This offer cannot be used in conjunction with any other WorldPerks offer. The first promotion registration will apply for members who have enrolled in multiple promotions. • Qualifying travel must commence after registration date and be completed no later than June 30, 2001. • All determinations by KLM and Northwest WorldPerks shall be final and conclusive in each case with concurrence of the DTI. • Double miles are awarded on actual flight miles only, not on elite membership or class of service bonuses. • Not all fares qualify for this promotion, for more information, contact your local WorldPerks Service Center and mention reference code GNWP BONUS KLDBL.

Per DTI - NCR Permit # 0774, Series of 2001

FREEZE
Sweet Corn
FREEZE
Mocha

SUMMER FREEZE. Dunkin' Donuts has recently launched the coldest thirst-quencher this side of summer in two must-try flavors: Freeze Mocha and Freeze Sweet. Dunkin' Donuts Mocha Freeze is an original blend of brewed coffee, rich chocolate and full cream milk. The Sweet Corn Freeze is a slushy drink made of special blend sweet corn and real sweet corn bits. Available at selected Dunkin' Donuts outlets nationwide for only P24.

Slow-cooked honey ribs for Mom served the Smart way

SMART Telecommunications and Tony Roma's are rewarding all Smart mothers until June 13 with one of the restaurant's sought-after meals, the Roma Feast, at a discounted price.

ROMA feast

The Roma feast is served with slow-cooked Carolina honey ribs, barbecued chicken, special sausage, corn on the cob and signature coleslaw. The meal is ideal for sharing and costs P1,050 at regular price. But this month, you can treat your mother to a Roma feast for only P650. That's P400 off the regular price.

To avail of the discount, you need only to buy a Smart celfone. Every single purchase of any Smart handset until June 13 entitles you to a Mother's Month Gift Voucher, which will in turn enable you to avail of discounts at selected establishments which include Tony Roma's.

Just present the gift voucher at Tony Roma's Restaurant and have your Mom enjoy what are judged as the "best ribs in America."

Tony Roma's Restaurant (tel. 813-7173) is located at 2/F The Parkway Building, Dela Rosa Street corner Makati Avenue, Ayala Center, Makati City.

When he's hot, he's hot

IN GOOD TASTE

Doreen G. Fernandez

ON THE LOWER level of The Power Plant Mall at Rockwell Center is the pleasant Hot! Café, subtitled Hot Sips, Hot Tips (tel. 898-1474/25/27; fax 898-1246). Although quite young, having opened in January, it has a long lineage. It is operated by Creative Dining Inc., which is headed by Robert Kuan and his son Kelvin.

Robert has years of experience in restaurant conceptualization and management. His thesis for the Asian Institute of Management was a restaurant concept that became the well-known Ling Nam chain of wonton and noodles fame. It was a family business, which he eventually gave over to the family, while he ventured further.

Then came Chow King, opened in 1985—an undeniable success. Found in malls or freestanding, by 1999 there were 165 stores, including four in the US and four in the Middle East. Robert sold it to Jollibee in 1999, and marched farther into the future.

I met Robert on a food trip to General Santos, Cotabato, during which he was doing research—talking to all of us foodies-on-tour, Lory Tan, Claude Tayag, Glenda Barretto, Jessie Sincioco; and to the owners and technicians of Alson's, the gigantic fish farm (*bangus, tilapia* and much more), which we visited. Always he was looking for ideas and sources for restaurant food.

The results of the research are: a Chinese restaurant called the Good View Seafood Restaurant, which was already functioning and successful when he bought it to use as a test kitchen for Chinese cooking. Father and son visited Malaysia and Hong Kong (especially groceries with salted fish, dried abalone and the like), as well as Philippine provincial cities, seeking recipes and sources.

And now the Hot! Café. This opened first in Malate in January, at the Bel-Air Apartments across from the US embassy on Roxas Boulevard. Then came this place at The Power Plant. Kelvin Kuan is a very young president, who prefers to be called operations manager.

Kelvin was my student in his freshman year at the Ateneo, and he kept the class well supplied with Chow King noodles and tidbits for class parties. After graduation he spent a couple of years working at Nestlé's, and thinking of a possible restaurant. When his father invited him in, he was happy to organize and run this 120-seat restaurant.

Pinoy favorites

The menu evolved, as did the restaurant concept. First of all, it had things hot: Café Brew, Kape Barako, Cappuccino, Caffe Mocha, Caffe Latte, Espresso and additional flavors—Amaretto, Hazelnut, Irish Cream and Vanilla—upon request. Then it offered Sips: Hot green and jasmine teas, and iced blends like Iced Latte and Strawberry Frappe.

The rest of the menu is Filipino, both urban and provincial. Ground pork and shrimp dumplings (fried or steamed) come with *kesong puti* cheese sticks (slender, crisp in *lumpia* wrappers), breaded onion rings and potato wedges in the Hot Tips or Pritos Amigos appetizer platters. Burlesque Queen is a *lumpiang hubad* of green papaya on a bed of lettuce.

KELVIN Kuan, Carmel Dael and the Hot Café *halo-halo*

> Robert Kuan of Ling Nam and Chow King fame has new restaurant concepts that he is pursuing with his son Kelvin

Hot soups include *sotanghon* with chicken and shrimps, Pancit Molo and an excellent *sinigang na tiyan ng bangus.*

Hot Pans are Pinoy favorites served either with *pan de sal* or with garlic *sinangag* and a fried egg: Hamburger patties with *kesong puti*; *longganisang* Alaminos or Vigan or Pampanga or Lucban or XO (spicy): pork *tocino*, beef *tapa*, corned beef hash, Spanish sardines, sliced ham with *queso de bola*, and *pistu* (ground pork, *chorizo de Bilbao*, egg and Parmesan cheese).

Other specials are: La Vida Longga, a selection of all the above *longganisas*, and Arroz à la Cubana.

Belly Hot Bonoan Bangus Specialties include the *sinigang* already mentioned, *tiyan ng bangus à la bistek*, and *adobong tiyan ng bangus.* Then there are the standards; chicken pork *adobo*, Ilocos *bagnet*, *pancit guisado* (*bihon* or Canton) and *pancit palabok.*

Desserts include a *saba turon* topped with vanilla ice cream, chocolate syrup and peanut bits. Claude Nine is a variant of Claude Tayag's creation: *Buko pandan* gelatin topped with *macapuno* ice cream. Kohee Jelly is coffee gelatin topped with Coffee Crumble ice cream. The star of the show is a colorful *halo-halo* (ice cream, shaved ice, *kaong*, *ube*, *leche fan*, beans, etc.).

We can see that the basis of the menu is Filipino food—breakfast, lunch and *merienda* favorites, carefully thought out, served and sourced. The *bangus* bellies, for example are of Bonoan *bangus*, chosen for the thickness of the fat and the sizes of the portions. All fish and sausages and the like come from carefully chosen small suppliers that Robert wants to help develop. The prices are modest, averaging P50-P100, except for the *tiyan ng bangus* dishes, which cost P150. These are aimed at office workers in the area and students at the Ateneo Law School.

The one-page menu is still evolving, as are the Kuan restaurant ideas. Next step: A seafood restaurant in Makati to be called Kingfisher, to open perhaps in May. We look forward to it, and to more hot tips and sips.

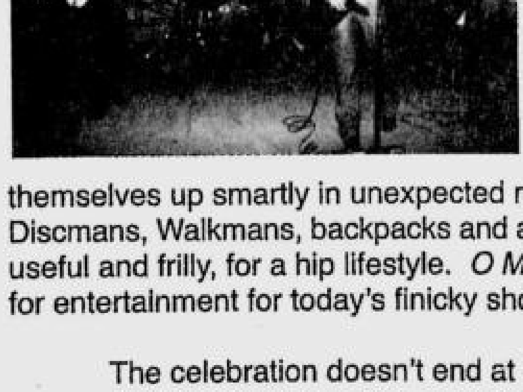
Entertainment Retailing in a Slick Silver Package: O Music Video

by Amanda Sandoval

MUSIC•VIDEO

The first time I entered the huge 500-square meter *O Music Video* at Rockwell Center was during its construction phase over the Christmas holiday season. It was dark, empty and stuffy with metal-colored planks stacked up and braided wires jutting out from the ceiling. The room smelled of wet paint and wooden shavings. It was like a dusty secret waiting patiently to be told. After brushing the dust off its cool silvery industrial interior since its soft opening four months ago, the new generation music-video and entertainment mecca that's been setting tongues a-wagging across the metropolis finally had its grand launch.

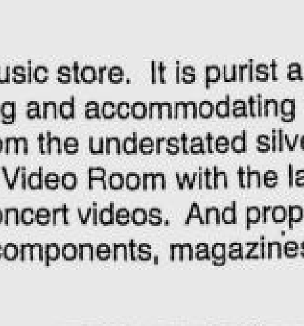
On April 27, *O Music Video* had the chance to kick its feet up, throw its hair back and bob its chin to the music. Starting at 5 o'clock in the afternoon, everyone was invited to a celebratory launch that included a mini-concert featuring some of the best Filipino bands such as Mojofly, 3rd Angle, Barbie's Cradle, True Faith and Eraserheads, among others. And when the bands weren't playing, the discs were spinning inside the DJ booth with the celebrated music from the very racks of the store!



Since its opening, *O Music Video* has taken entertainment retailing in the Philippines to a new level. Aside from the popular titles, artists and labels, the store features echoingly deep selections from a wonderful variety of musical genres. Its notable strengths are in Dance & Electronica (with the deepest selection of exotic labels like Cafe del Mar, Global Underground, Wagram, React and Hed Kandi in the Philippines), Evergreen and New Age (O has exclusive rights to the choice Narada, Time/Line, Baja and TSR labels), Independent (Marigold, Siesta), and Latin Music (Putumayo, RMM). The store also has an exceptional collection of Jazz (Verve, Windham Hill) and Classical Music (Deutsche Grammophon, Sony Classical and Decca labels). Listeners can browse from over 70 music stations scattered throughout the smart interior. Truly a music snob's paradise!

But *O Music Video* isn't merely a music store. It is purist and cool without being antisocial. It is inviting and accommodating with a really cute ass! A few strides away from the understated silver aisles of bright music casings is a large Video Room with the latest DVDs, VCDs and anime, karaoke and concert videos. And propping themselves up smartly in unexpected nooks of the store are sections for micro-components, magazines, Discmans, Walkmans, backpacks and all sorts of other accessories, both useful and frilly, for a hip lifestyle. *O Music Video* is the one-stop shop for entertainment for today's finicky shopper, no doubt.

The celebration doesn't end at *O Music Video.* It whips on long after the bands have struck their last chord. *O Music Video* is a pleasant contradiction of a store. It is profound and picky, yet it is musical and jovial, amiably accommodating. It plays with the pop and rings with the rare. *O Music Video* stands back and swings away to the rhythm of its own music, allowing you to entertain yourself in discovery and bliss.



3rd level • Power Plant Mall • Rockwell Center

BRADA GALLERY
A COOKING SCHOOL by Master Chef Ed Quimson
RD-5/F Creekside Mall, Amorsolo St. Makati City

May 18, 01 2:30 p.m. LAS PAELLAS Php 1,300.00.
Paella a la Sevillana(vegetarian)/ Paella de Setas y Mejillones(mussel & mushroom)/
Paella Negra(with squid ink)Paella de Cordero(with lamb)/ Paella Espanola

May 19,01 9:30 a.m. GOURMET PIZZAS Php 900.00
Smoked Salmon/ Roast Duck Breast/ Quesong Puti and Tinapa/
Sardine and Onion/ Gorgonzola and Chicharon
2:30 p.m.CHOCOLATECOLATE Php 1,000.00
Triple Chocolate Silk/ White Chocolate Cheese Cake/ Decadent
Chocolate/ Toblerone Cake/ White Chocolate Bavarois

May 21, 01 9:30 a.m. BASIC CAKE MAKING Php 700.00
Sponge cake/ Chiffon cake Roll/ Marble Butter Cake/ Apple Pie/
Chocolate Roll
2:30 p.m. VERY SPECIAL PASTAS Php 1,100.00
Grilled Mushroom Lasagna/ Penne with Smoked Longanisa Sauce/
Spaghetti with Bacon and Asparagus/Smoked Chicken Lasagna/
Fettuccine of Crepes with Mango Sauce

May 22, 01 9:30 a.m. NORTHERN ITALIAN Php 1,200.00
Mozzarella en Carrotzza(fried mozzarella)/Tagliatelle al Granchio(pasta with crab)/
Polo alla Grglia(grilled chicken)/ Manzo Brassato al Triplo Burro(broiled tenderloin)
2:30 p.m. NOODLE LUST Php 850.00
Pancit Lechon/ Conchiglie con Peperonata/ Sotanghon Sukiyaki/
Mini Meatball Lasagna/ Pancit Buko Guisado

May 24, 01 9:30 a.m. COOKIE BUFFET Php 800.00
Chocolate Chip/ Crinkle/ Black and White/ Oatmeal and Raisin/
Cinnamon Snaps/ White Chocolate and Walnuts/ Butter
2:30 p.m.EVERYDAY FOOD Php 1,000.00
Squash Bisque/ Pan Roasted Fish with Kaldereta Sauce/ Iberian Chicken/
Baked Tenderloin with Anchovy/ Rachel's Delight

May 25, 01 9:30 a.m. HAM CURING Php 2,800.00
The Process of Curing, Baking and Glazing a Leg of Ham, plus 2
Sauces, Pineapple and Beer/ Apple Juice and Maple Syrup
2:30 p.m. EVERYDAY FOOD II Php 1,000.00
Meet Ball Stew/ Baked Fish in White Wine and Olive Oil/ Grilled
Pork Chops with Caramelized Onions/ Humba/ Mango Flan

May 26, 01 9:30 a.m. EAST MEETS WEST Php 1,300.00
Egg Noodles with Shrimps, Tomato and Basil/ Blue Cheese Wonton Soup/
Peking duck Pizza/ Orange Spare Ribs/ Choco Banana Lumpia
2:30 p.m. EVERYDAY FOOD III Php 1,000.00
Sinigang na Lechon Kawali/ Milk Fish Bellies Asado/
Chicken a la King/ London Broil Steaks/ Fruit Salad

May 28, 01 9:30 a.m. EAST MEETS WEST II Php 1,300.00
Crepes of Laguna and Mozzarella Cheese/ Rice Noodles with Rosemarie
and Porccini/ Lamb Kaldereta Salad/Duck Sausage with Pistachio and Raisin/
Ripe Mango and White Chocolate Samosa
2:30 p.m. PICA PICA PICA Php 800.00
Salpicao/ Gambas al Ajillo/ Champignones al Ajillo/ Sizzling Sisig/
Sizzling Beef Ribs/ Tenderloin Tips

May 29, 01 9:30 a.m.. FUSSION Php 1,500.00
Chicken Flan Consommé/ Crab Timbale with Santol Conserve/ Balut Pate/
Linguini with Triple Tomatoes and Black Beans/ Open Ravioli with
Scallops and Prawns/ Berries with Cointreau and Sake
2:30 p.m. CREPE FESTIVAL Php 750.00
Basic Crepe with Assorted Fillings/ Tomato Garlic and Cheese/ Spinach and Ham/
Sausage and Cheese/ Chicken Sanfaina/ Fruit

May 30, 01 9:30 a.m. FUSSION II Php 1,500.00
Pan Fried Fish Fillet in Guava-Tomato Butter/ Grilled Salmon Marinated Tocino
Style/ Blackened Lapu-Lapu stuffed with Smoked Salmon served on Curry Sauce/
Pan Fried Milk Fish Bellies with Balayan Salsa/ Crispy Shrimps with Wasabe Cream

May 31, 01 2:30 p.m. FUSSION III Php 1,500.00
Fillet Mignon with Coffee Sauce/ Grilled Lamb Chops Marinated in Guava Jelly and
Coffee/Marinated Chicken Breast in Khalua and Pineapple Juice/ Beef Kaldereta
Lasagna/ Breaded Pork Cutlet with Mango Chutney Cream

For Reservation and Information please call
Tel 815-2379 or e-mail bradagallery@yah.com

PHILIPS X rage

Hits Manila!

May 18 - 20, 2001
The Fort Summer Camp
Bonifacio Global City

Philips Consumer Electronics (PCE), one of the world's leading electronics companies, brings Philips X-Rage, this year's most explosive sports event, to the Philippines. To be held on May 18, 19 and 20 at The Fort Summer Camp, Bonifacio Global City, Philips X-Rage is a three-day action-packed weekend that gives Filipino youth the opportunity to be part of an exciting festival of extreme games such as BMX, skateboarding and in-line skating.

Philips X-Rage is a testament to Philips' commitment to the young market, bridging the gap between Philips and its youthful consumers. Held in partnership with International Management Group (IMG), a leader in sports events management, Philips X-Rage is an extreme sports tournament that takes off from last year's games, dubbed Rush-X. It gave Filipinos a baptism of fire in all things extreme. This tournament is also being held in Singapore, Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand, Taiwan and China -- proving that the popularity of extreme games is rising to an all-time high.

This year's games and event activities are co-sponsored by Agfa, The Fort Summer Camp, Milo, Pop Cola, Swatch, Toby's Sports and Hobbies, Tokyo Tokyo, Vans, Red Bull, NU 107 and RX 93.1.

Diving in the action

A total of 300 slots for the skateboarding, BMX and in-line skating categories, in both Beginners and Advanced divisions, were opened during the Philips X-Rage Sports Clinics and Qualifying Rounds held at the Don Bosco Makati gym. Hundreds of x-games enthusiasts signed up to participate in the clinic and compete in the qualifying rounds. Each was evaluated according to his skills and ranked accordingly.

What makes competing in Philips X-Rage even more exciting is getting the chance to represent the country in Philips X-Rage's regional finals which will be held in Jakarta, Indonesia.

The best of the best will also have the chance to fly to Woodward camp, the ultimate destination for any extreme sports enthusiast. Located in Central Pennsylvania, USA, the camp is the largest extreme sports complex and serves as the training area for many top pros and Olympic medallists in the fields of freestyle biking, skateboarding, in-line skating and gymnastics.

Generation X-Rage

On the inspiration behind the Philips X-Rage tournament, PCE general manager Tony Lim explains, "We've always been proud to be a part of the lives of today's youth. Activities like last year's Rush-X helped us provide them with innovative products that match their fast-paced lifestyles and also acknowledge their many talents and achievements. With X-Rage, we're once again giving today's youth a venue where they can showcase those talents and prove to the world that they can make a difference."

Top extreme sports athletes will be flying in especially for the event. World pros Joshua and JD Heino, Tyler Shields, Michael Peterson, Zacky "Webber" Murphy and the Philippines' very own Willy Santos will be demonstrating the stuff which made them famous around the globe.

(continued next page)

PHILIPS
X rage
Rage to the Extreme!
at The Fort Summer Camp
AGFA
FORT
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NU 107
Pop cola
Red Bull Supreme
MONSTER RADIO RX93.1
swatch
TOBY'S
TOKYO TOKYO
VANS
WOODWARD
PHILIPS
Let's make things better.

If you're into high-flying BMX, in-line skating and skateboarding wizardry, then the Philips X-Rage games are right up your alley! It's a weekend of pro exhibitions, prizes, bands and all things extreme. Catch this mad event from May 18-20 at The Fort, Bonifacio Global City, Taguig.

Winners will be sent to the regional qualifiers in Jakarta, Indonesia to see action against Asia's best. If they're good enough, they'll be on their way to the ultimate, x-gamer's paradise, the Woodward training camp in Pennsylvania, USA.

Philips X-Rage. Rage to the Extreme!

(cont'd)

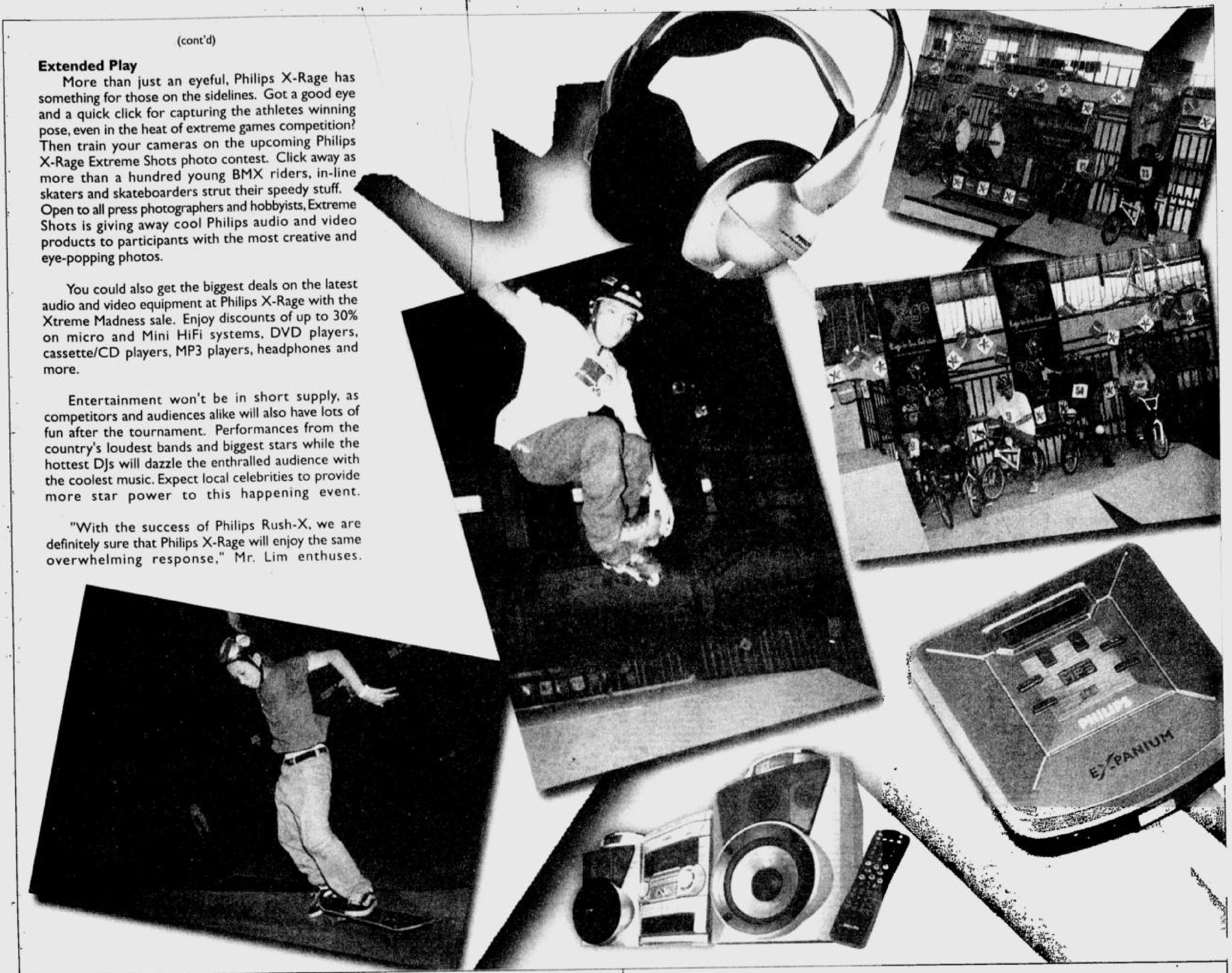
Extended Play

More than just an eyeful, Philips X-Rage has something for those on the sidelines. Got a good eye and a quick click for capturing the athletes winning pose, even in the heat of extreme games competition? Then train your cameras on the upcoming Philips X-Rage Extreme Shots photo contest. Click away as more than a hundred young BMX riders, in-line skaters and skateboarders strut their speedy stuff. Open to all press photographers and hobbyists, Extreme Shots is giving away cool Philips audio and video products to participants with the most creative and eye-popping photos.

You could also get the biggest deals on the latest audio and video equipment at Philips X-Rage with the Xtreme Madness sale. Enjoy discounts of up to 30% on micro and Mini HiFi systems, DVD players, cassette/CD players, MP3 players, headphones and more.

Entertainment won't be in short supply, as competitors and audiences alike will also have lots of fun after the tournament. Performances from the country's loudest bands and biggest stars while the hottest DJs will dazzle the enthralled audience with the coolest music. Expect local celebrities to provide more star power to this happening event.

"With the success of Philips Rush-X, we are definitely sure that Philips X-Rage will enjoy the same overwhelming response," Mr. Lim enthuses.



PHILIPS

X-Rage

Rage to the Extreme!

Xtreme Shots

photo contest

Philips and Agfa Film bring you the most extreme photo op of the year, EXTREME SHOTS! Win cool prizes by capturing breath-taking moments in the Philips X-Rage tournament on film!

Here's how to join:

Contest rules:

1. The contest is open to all press photographers and hobbyists. The contest subject is the Philips X-Rage tournament which is held from May 18-20 at The Fort Summer Camp, Bonifacio Global City. Registration will be held during the three-day event.
2. The contest has two (2) categories, each with corresponding prizes:

Category A	Published photos*
1st Prize	Philips 21" Real Flat Color TV Polaroid camera
2nd Prize	Philips Mini HiFi System with VCD Player Polaroid camera
3rd Prize	Philips VHS Player and Recorder Polaroid camera

*Photos should be published in a newspaper or magazine on or before June 20, 2001

Category B	Unpublished photos
1st Prize	Philips "Woox" Mini HiFi System Polaroid camera
2nd Prize	Philips Super VCD Player Polaroid camera
3rd Prize	Philips "Dynamax" Radio Cassette Recorder with CD Player Polaroid camera

3. Participants can send in as many entries as they want. In the event that a participant wins more than one prize, he/she shall receive the bigger prize.
4. Agfa color films, of any size and speed, may be used in all entries. Entries should be in 8R (8"x10") prints.
5. All entries must be submitted on or before June 30, 2001 to:

Fuentes Publicity Network, Inc.
United 6-D Cypress Gardens Condominium
112 Herrera St., Legaspi Village, Makati City
Tel No.: 893-9355/816-3109/892-6184
Fax: 812-4797
Look for Grace or Jay

6. Photos will be judged according to relevance (40%), composition/balance/creativity (25%) and visual impact (30%).
7. Winners in the Published Photos category are required to submit clippings of the published entry and ten (10) 5R print copies of their winning entries before they can claim their prizes. Winning entries in the Unpublished Photos category are automatically the property of Philips Consumer Electronics.
8. Philips Consumer Electronics reserves the right to use the winning entries in its publicity and advertising campaigns.

AGFA

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Xtreme Madness!

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Philips X-Rage unveils yet another extreme event from May 18-20 at The Fort Summer Camp-- the **Xtreme Madness!** Get a load of the coolest Philips audio and video products at low, low prices, up to **30%** off!

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Sale Schedule:
May 18 1:00 pm - 6:00 pm
May 19 10:00 am - 6:00 pm
May 20 10:00 am - 6:00 pm

Pay in cash or through a BPI Credit Card. Hurry! Xtreme Madness runs from May 18-20, 2001 only!

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. A2-127 Series of 2001

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Xrage

Rage to the Extreme!

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

MAY 18 (Friday) OPENING

2:00pm Opening ceremonies.
Charity clinic
5:00pm Registration for free skating starts
5:30pm Pro Athlete Demo
6:00pm Public skating session
7:45pm Live band performance (Six Digit)
8:45pm Live band performance (Greyhoundz)
9:45pm Live band performance (Cheese)

MAY 19 (Saturday) SEMI-FINALS

8:00am Registration for In-line Semi-Finalists begins
9:00am Registration for In-line closes
Warm-up for In-line Skating (Beginners)
9:30am In-line Skating (Beginners) Semi-Finals
10:30am Warm-up for In-line Skating (Advanced)
11:00am In-line Skating (Advanced) Semi-Finals
Registration for BMX begins
12:00nn Pro Athlete Demo
12:30pm Warm-up for BMX (Beginners)
DJ scratching performance
1:00pm Registration for BMX closes
BMX (Beginners) Semi-finals
2:30pm Warm-up for BMX (Avanced)
DJ scratching performance
3:00pm BMX (Advanced) Semi-finals
Registration for Skateboarders begins
4:30pm Pro Athlete Demo
5:00pm Registration for Skateboarding closes
Warm-up for Skateboard (Beginners)
DJ scratching performance
5:30pm Skateboarding (Beginners) Semi-finals
7:00pm Warm-up for Skateboard (Advanced)
DJ scratching performance
7:30pm Skateboarding (Advanced) Semi-finals
8:00pm Live band performance
(Chronic Down Syndrome)
9:00pm Public skating/riding sessions
Live band performance
(Bad Burn & Skychurch)
10:00pm Live band performance (P.O.T.)

MAY 20 (Sunday) FINALS

9:00am Sign-in for all finalists
10:00am Warm-up for In-line Skating (Beginners)
DJ scratch tracks begin
10:30am In-line Skating (Beginners) Finals
11:30am Warm-up for In-line Skating (Advanced)
12:00nn In-line Skating (Advanced) Finals
1:00pm Pro Athlete Demo
1:30pm Warm-up for BMX (Beginners)
DJ scratching performance/giveaways
and prizes
2:00pm BMX (Beginners) Finals
3:00pm Warm-up for BMX (Advanced)
3:30pm BMX (Advanced) Finals
4:30pm Pro Athlete Demo
5:00pm Warm-up for Skateboard (Beginners)
5:30pm Skateboarding (Beginners) Finals
6:30pm Warm-up for Skateboard (Advanced)
7:00pm Skateboarding (Advanced) Finals
8:00pm Prize giving ceremony
8:30pm Public skating session
Live band performance (Itchy Worms)
9:30pm Live band performance (Sandwich)

Limited slots still open for BMX, Skateboarding & In-line Skating!

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WHO'S WHO @ PHILIPS X-RAGE

Willy Santos (Skateboard)

2000	4th Place, B3 Lake Havasu AZ
	2nd Place, B3 Louisville KY
	9th Place, B3 St. Petersberg FL
	16 Vans Triple Crown OH
1998	1st Place, Vans Triple Crown NJ
	2nd Place, Vans Triple Crown Finals HBCA
	Best Street Skater, Vans Triple Crown
	MTV Music Sports Festival TN
	8th Place, Vans Triple Crown WI
1995-1998	Top '10, X-Games
1997	1st Place, Munster Germany Worldcup
	MTV Music Sports Festival, Austin Texas

Michael Peterson (Skateboard)
A 12-year skating veteran, he has toured extensively, earning the respect of hardcore extreme gamers everywhere. He endorses Illenium Skateboards, Globe shoes, Volcom clothing, Independent Trucks, Bones Wheels, Nixon Watches, Von Zipper sunglasses, Ninja Bearings, Sunrise Surf and the Skate Shop.

Zack "Webby" Murphy (In-line)
This 20 year-old California native has 11 years of experience under his belt, placing 1st in the NISS Tour in 1997.

Joshua Heino (BMX)

2000	Voted year's #1 video part
	9th Place, RIDE BMX Magazine NORA Cup Street
	La Revolution Series Street Champion
	4th Place, Street ESPN/CFB Series
1999	2-Hip Series Champion
	6th Place, Street NBC Gravity Games
	9th Place, Street ESPN X-Games
	8th Place, Street Overall ESPN/BS Series

Tyler Shields (In-line)

2000	2nd Place, HOE Down
1999	5th Place, ASA Kentucky
1998	ASA World Champion
	NISS Points Champ
	1st Place, NISS Dallas
	2nd Place, NISS Seattle
1997	1st Place, NISS San Francisco

John David Heino (BMX)

2000	Impact Skate Park Champion
	Kink Bike Tour - Demos

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